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THREE SHORT EDITORIALS:
'What's Happening?' 'How Many Of "US" Are There?" 'Lead, Follow, Or Get Out Of The Way!'

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

What's Happening?

In this issue of the Tapestry we've published the first part of an extensive educational article by Laura Smiley on how to give money. Why? Because we're about to take ourselves seriously; we're about to take the next quantum leap forward in the development of our community! ... That's why!

Historically speaking, taking ourselves seriously has not been something we've done well. So far it's primarily been "Where's the next party," "What's in it for me," and "I don't want to get involved." Well kids, times are a'changin'! We have a few hundred million brothers and sisters out there in the world. Our brothers and sisters are out there living in an ocean of fear and loneliness, an ocean filled with parasites and carnivores eager to feed on their pain. What have we done to make that ocean a safer and happier place? Relatively speaking ... nothing!

If we won't care about our brothers and sisters, who will? If we won't act, who will? If we don't do it now, than when? We do care, we are acting, and we are doing it now. We're not looking for another party, or for people who don't care and don't want to get involved. We are looking for people who do care, and do want to get involved. We are building the means to put that caring into action, and developing the way to obtain the money necessary to fund those means ... and that's why we're publishing Laura's article.

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) was created to serve our community; to build a happier and better world for us all. Everything we have ever done was done with that objective in mind. This past year IFGE's Finance Committee (Yvonne Cook, Chairperson) teamed up with IFGE's Marketing Committee (Jane Fee, Chairperson, Kerri Reeder, Coordinator) and formed an Ad Hoc Fund Raising Committee (Joni Chrissman, Chairperson). A few weeks ago, during Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, Yvonne and I met with that Fund Raising Committee.

You know, our community really does have some super people ... talented, caring, and motivated. Me? I'm just the guru on the mount. Ask me the meaning of life and I'll tell you, but don't ask me to lead the troops, balance a checkbook, or fix a faucet. I'm no general, or an accountant, or a plumber. Yvonne and I met with six of those super people in P-town, Joni Chrissman from Minneapolis, Laura Smiley from Denver, Dana Houston from Kentucky, Michelle Miles from New York City, Kerri Reeder from New Hampshire, and Jane Fee from Minneapolis. There I was, sitting with the generals, the accountants, and the plumbers, trying to look as though I knew what they were talking about. They were bandying about complicated words like "strategic planning", and "capital funds", and "trusts", and "wills", and I nodded politely,

and kept my big mouth shut. Personally, I wouldn't know the difference between a Capital Remainder Trust and a breath mint, so it was a humbling experience for me.

These wonderful people were talking about building the financial where-with-all for us to serve all our brothers and sisters - forever. They weren't talking of a few thousand -- they were talking hundreds of thousands - millions.

They were talking about being able to pay a living wage to a professional staff, trained people, capable and ready to do what needed to be done, and to step into any vacancies that occur -- especially mine. That alone guarantees that IFGE and the services it provides will survive.

They were talking about providing grant money, scholarship money, and money for training programs for our future leaders and educators.

They were talking about professionally managed outreach and walk-in centers throughout North America. In fact, we already have just such a center being planned in Southern California under the directorship of Sister Mary Elizabeth.

They were talking about taking the best of our publications and providing them free of charge to every public and college library in North America, 11,500 in all.

They were talking about taking our dreams out of fantasyland, and making the very best of our dreams come true.

Fantastic things are happening, and you are all part of it. We want you. We want your participation, your perspiration, and your financial support. Laura Smiley's article will show you how.

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How Many Of "Us" Are There?

A few weeks back I was on one more television show being asked the same boring questions one more time: "Why do you do this? Are you gay? Which bathroom do you use? I smiled broadly and answered as though I had never been asked these questions before. Then I was asked, "How many of <u>you</u> are there?"

I threw my shoulders back proudly and announced to the world, "Three to five percent of the population!" 3-5% of the population? Really? Where did I get that from? From the great encyclopedia in the sky! Yes, it's true, I reached up into the air and grabbed a figure that sounded good, and threw it out to the public as if I really knew what I was talking about. Like many of you, I am also a graduate of old B.S.U. (and B.S. does not stand for Bachelor of Science).

I'm not alone. A lot of people use the 3-5% figure; perhaps even you. What's our criterion? If we included everyone who cross-dresses, or has cross-dressed, or would like to cross-dress for whatever reasons, that would include just about everybody. If we narrow that down a little and say, "3-5% are transvestites;" whose definition are we using? Transvest = cross-dress, and we're right back to the same problem we had in the preceding sentence. However, if we use Mangus Hirschfeld's definition, now we're implying compulsive and sexual behavior, which means a mental disorder, which means 3-5% of the population are real sick-o's. Thank God I'm not one of them. However, the original question was, "How many of <u>us</u> there were?"

How am I supposed to know how many of "us" there are? I don't even know what constitutes "us". Let's think about this for a minute. As long as there have been females there have been males that longed to emulate them... and vice versa. It's a basic human characteristic... in virtually everyone to some degree or another. If Dr. Money is to be believed, it is also a basic characteristic of higher primates. Oh good! Now we can say with equal authority that three to five percent of all mountain gorillas are transvestites (or at least they would be, if they knew what a dress was). That longing to emulate the opposite sex manifests itself in a near infinite variety of ways - through fantasies, fetishism, role play, transvestism, transsexualism, impersonation, Halloween, and the Rocky Horror Picture Show. **Mother Camp is Mother Nature's sister**!

Human beings have a behavioral spectrum. People change behavioral patterns, and thereby travel up and down that behavioral spectrum. Now, if we chopped out three to five percent of the spectrum that included the greatest amount of cross-dressing and transsexual behavior, and included everyone that was in that chopped out piece of spectrum at the moment we chopped it out, and said, "Every one of them was one of <u>us</u>," who could refute us? We would be absolutely right. Like I say, I'm a graduate of old B.S.U. The only glitch in that logic is you and I might not be in that chopped out piece of spectrum, which would mean we would not be one of us... but I don't want to think of it.

So, the B.S. aside, how many of <u>us</u> are there? **I have no idea**! I don't even understand the ques-

tion... but I do have some food for thought. The Tapestry isn't for everyone. It's very conservative, non-erotic, a bit on the intellectual side, comparatively expensive, and hard to get. Only a small minority of people interested in the cross-dressing and transsexual phenomena are going to be interested in the Tapestry, or be able to get it. Yet, in Salem, New Hampshire, we sell 25 Tapestries. 25,000 people live in Salem. One out of every 1,000 people in Salem buys a Tapestry. We haven't scratched the surface. The United States has 250,000,000 people. If the U.S. were on a par with Salem, NH, we would be selling 250,000 Tapestries. What's the potential market? Ten times that amount? 2,500,000 Tapestries. On the average, each Tapestry gets read by four people. 10,000,000 people. And that's before we scratch the surface.

Forget the numbers! They don't mean anything. We're dealing with a fundamental part of the human soul, a part that's been with us forever, and will be with us forever. It isn't important we know how many of <u>us</u> there are, or even who or what we are. It's only important to know that <u>**we are**</u>! And, we exist in vast numbers ... <u>**vast**</u>!

=-=-=-=-=

Lead - Follow - Get Out Of The Way

Have you seen the movie 'Amadeus'? When Mozart died at the end of the movie, I sat locked in my chair and cried for half an hour. The movie wasn't really a tear-jerker; it wasn't even sad. In fact, I didn't even like Mozart. I thought he was an obnoxious, egocentric little pill. But ooooh... I did love his music. What I felt was the same thing I felt when Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were killed... a frustrated rage ... a need to hit something, with nothing to hit.

Mozart was a musical genius, perhaps the greatest in history. Antonio Salieri was a so-so composer. His genius was being able to recognize Mozart's genius, and he couldn't handle it. It drove him crazy. He was mad at God for not giving him Mozart's gift, and got his revenge by destroying Mozart.

Mozart, perhaps the greatest musical genius in history, 37 years old ... dead, destroyed by a nobody who couldn't stand somebody else being better. Who are the victims? <u>**We are**</u> **... you and me**, and the countless millions of people who would have enjoyed his music. Oh, think of the magnificent music he could have created if he only had another 30 years of life. Yet, Salieri, jealous, mad at God for denying him Mozart's gift, denied us that gift as well, and for at least one half an hour, I absolutely hated him for it. All Salieri had to do was get out of the way. Instead, he chose to be a destroyer.

What about Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy? Here were two magnificent human beings out to improve the lives of millions of people... and they would have done it, if it weren't for a couple of nobodies who saw fit to destroy them. Who were the victims? You and me - and all the people they would have helped!

Mozart... King... Kennedy... Isn't it amazing the damage that nobodies can do?

Our community is loaded with people trying hard to improve the lives of other people. Our community is also loaded with people trying to prevent them. For instance, I just returned from the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme in Houston, Texas. Jane Ellen Fairfax was the coordinator, and did a fantastic job. The Holiday broke all existing records. It had more newcomers present than ever before, and there wasn't a moment when there wasn't someone crying just from the sheer joy of being there. For the participants it was a powerful experience, and for me it was a heart-warming and hope-building experience.

By inviting me to be a speaker, and by inviting Tri-Ess' friends from other organizations, Jane Ellen had built important bridges for Tri-Ess to the rest of our community. Yet, in spite of the huge success of the Holiday, I was cornered twice by people who felt it was necessary to tell me how put out they were that I was there. I was not a "heterosexual transvestite", how dare I show up at a Tri-Ess event? They didn't want any outsiders ... period! They also made it very clear they were going to do everything they could to put a stop to it (whatever "it" was!). These two people were fundamentally intolerant of other people, seriously homophobic, even hateful of anyone who didn't toe the "traditional" Tri-Ess line. One of them didn't even want wives there. I felt as though I was being attacked by the Grand Wizard in a dress.

Jane Ellen and the majority of the Tri-Ess leadership are out to build a stronger Tri-Ess, a Tri-Ess that is better able to serve the needs of its members. To succeed they have recognized and accepted the importance of working cooperatively with other individuals and organizations. They stand an excellent chance of succeeding, but I ask Jane Ellen, and all the Tri-Ess leadership, in fact I ask everyone, please heed my warning ... remember the damage that nobodies can do.

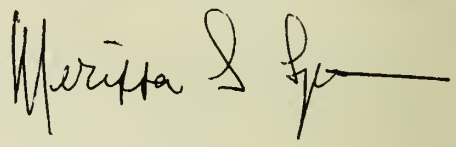
I have another example. During 'Be All', when it was last held in Chicago, I was invited to a reception for the participants of Christina Young's

Transsexual Conference. As usual, I was at the event to work and was not a participant of Chris' conference, so I felt honored to have been invited. I was having a lovely evening chatting and sharing thoughts and feelings with my sisters, when I was invited to join a small rap group. The group was moderated by Marsha Botzer, a leader with the Ingersoll Center in Seattle. There was a lady in that group who went off on a rampage about how people should only care about themselves, how no one should help anyone, and how wrong and evil we were for trying to do so. When I asked her why she was at 'Be All', she said, "To submarine the event!" Marsha was there, Chris Young and Wendi Pierce were there, all wonderful, caring people working so hard to help people, and here was this nobody telling me she was there to destroy their (and my) efforts!!!!

We have an objective - to help improve people's lives. Obviously, there are people who don't share that objective. Perhaps their objective is to satisfy their own desires, and to hell with everyone else. Perhaps they resent anyone caring about anyone else besides them. Perhaps they're filled with hate, or jealousy, or a sense of superiority, or inferiority. Perhaps they need to feel important, and hurting other people, or criticizing or making fun of them, is their way of feeling important. Perhaps they have a compulsive need to destroy. Whatever the reason, I cannot help but feel that these people are a sickness, a disease that causes our community's wounds to fester. I choose to be a healer. I pray that you do as well.

To all you healers, let us reach out to those who need us. Let us join hands and sing a harmonious song to the health and well being of all people. Let us work together to build a better life for all. We need leaders. We need followers. We need healers. If you are a leader, than lead. If you are a follower, then follow. If you are not a healer, or a leader, or a follower, then for God's sake, just GET OUT OF THE WAY!

My love to you all,



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EDITORIAL:

[Wendi is a co-founder of 'A Rose', and the current chairperson of the IFGE Board of Directors. Those who wish to contact Wendi may do so by writing: Wendi Pierce, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261]

THE MECHANICS OF GENDER PERCEPTION

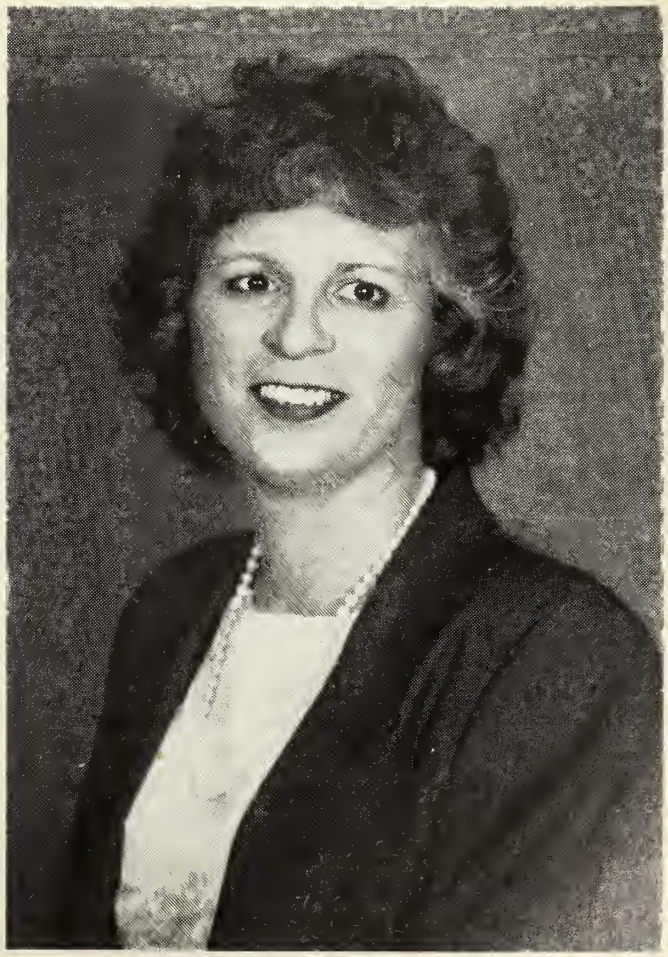
By: Wendi Danielle Pierce

This past month I had the pleasure of attending two events that were both enjoyable and educational experiences for me. First of all, I was invited to speak to a group of professionals at a conference on language, communication, and gender in Reno, Nevada. Secondly, I attended the 16th annual Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, Mass.. Fantasia Fair is an annual event sponsored by the Human Outreach Institute at which people explore and are hopefully learn more about their inner gender desires. These two events were very different in nature but both had a similar impact on me. At each, I met a number of people who were striving to learn more about issues pertaining to "gender". This was the thread that seemed to tie both events together and this I feel is the issue that we as individuals and collectively are trying to resolve.

The professionals in Reno were all highly educated department heads and professors at various universities. One of the purposes of this conference was to identify how "gender" impacts us as a society. The feeling seemed to be that gender, whether it be implied or unquestionably stated, carries with it stereotypical connotations. It was also stated that gender and the social image that accompanies it creates a caste system within which we live. Several times during the presentations it was stated that the first thing which unconsciously occurs when two individuals make contact in society is an establishment on the other's gender. This in turn lays the ground work for how that other person is to be dealt with. In other words, if the person is of the same gender as our self we relate one way and if that person is the opposite gender we then act accordingly. It was stated that gender establishment is "the" crucial factor in all social interactions. I would agree with this. From personal experience, I now know that almost all personal interactions are governed by gender influenced perceptions. The underlying notion of "one of us" or "one of them" carries much more weight than we would like to admit, and until this choice is made interaction in society tends to stall.

There are cases when gender mis-identity is acceptable. Fantasia Fair is one of these places. At this event persons from all over the world are free to explore their "gender of desire" and to interact with society in general while exploring this adopted gender. During this event the town and it's visitors are geared up to play what I would call "gender games". It's said that everyone associated with the "fair" gets "read" (or misread). But this is the nature of this event and all present expect it, unlike society in general.

Gender perception is a multi-faceted process. All our senses are put into service when a person's gender is being decided and our perception of another person's gender is usually established very quickly. Should there be any indecision, this identification process preoccupies us until some decision can be attained. In addition, our perception of another's gender, once established, is not easily changed. Should initial perception prove wrong, several alternatives might result. These alternatives range from a simple reprogramming of how to relate to this other person to outright embarrassment and even hostility. People



do not like to look ridiculous and if the mis-perception of another person's gender has caused seemingly open public embarrassment, hostility toward that individual may follow. In addition, should an individual be insecure with respect to their own roll in society or be so rigorously programmed that any gender variations are taboo, they will probably not be able to accept someone projecting mixed gender signals. In these cases an "I'm better that you" or a "you're sick" reaction may result.

What are the gender signals? How do we perceive another person's gender? Also, for us in the "gender community", how do we stack the deck in favor of the gender we perceive ourselves to be. The answers are not easy. As I previously stated, gender perception is a multifaceted process which we learn very early in life. Even infants are capable of gender identification at an early age. Within the first few months of life, a child can distinguish between strange men and women and will act accordingly.

Gender perception begins with the processing of general sensory signals such as appearance, speech and speech content, scent, mannerisms, etc.. All of these signals are collected until a template is sufficiently filled. This I call the "gender perception template". The template is made up of many sensory inputs or cues, some cues are obvious in nature and others very subtle but none the less important. These cues each have two sides, i.e. a masculine and a feminine side. Some would argue that there is a third side (androgyny) but I would argue that this third possibility is only that a specific cue is missing from the template. An individual has been identified as belonging to one gender or the other when the individual doing the identification has filled in the template to the point where the scales tip to either the masculine or feminine side and momentarily reach one end of the scale. I feel the key here is that once the scale momentarily reaches an end point, the decision making process is over. This new individual has been analyzed enough for the unconscious brain to end the analysis and other thought processes take precedence. Other gender related inputs will be processed but these are not used to establish this person's gender, only to reaffirm it or to be placed in a list of things that are used to establish that person's credibility or one's comfort level with this individual. Therefore, once gender is established other gender related traits are processed differently.

For those who desire to portray a gender other than that which they were initially raised, i.e. cross-dressers or transsexuals, and to succeed in being accepted as the gender of choice, a working knowledge of this process and the way to tilt it in their favor is a necessity. For many the deck is heavily stacked against them. Such things as physical stature, vocal patterns, even general appearance within the context of the interaction, i.e. being there at all, may be formidable obstacles to overcome. Combine these items with such subtle but immediate giveaways such as body language, how one occupies space or a tendency to over compensate, and the war will be lost in milliseconds. Yes, the gender identification process is usually over before we know it.

Can physical characteristics be overcome? Can any tilting occur with respect to obvious physical handicaps? The answer, I feel to a large degree is yes. How then can a 6 foot 2 inch M-to-F cross-dresser or a 5 foot F-to-M transsexual with a burgeoning feminine rear ever hope to be accepted as the gender of their choice. The answer to most physical handicaps can be found in studying others with the same problem who are decidedly of the gender of choice yet exhibit that same feature. With little exception, I feel that there is no single feature which may be considered as a gender handicap that is not currently present in many persons in the gender of desire. For example, There are many very tall women that are perceived as nothing more than tall women. Likewise, there are many short men with large rear ends who are very much accepted as men. Also, while a deep Vocal pitch is normally a

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decidedly male characteristic, there are many notable actresses and female singers with very deep voices. The list goes on and on. The secret is to seek out individuals who have characteristics which would normally be considered a feature of those of the opposite gender and study them to learn why they are accepted in spite of these handicaps. Study all the other gender related items (most will not be physical characteristics) which comprise these person's total image. When taken as a whole, these other characteristics tilt the scales in the opposite direction. The key, therefore is to provide enough gender cues to cause the "gender perception template" to tilt momentarily while minimizing things that seem to contradict that initial impression.

The process of seeking out individuals to follow as examples of how to overcome gender handicaps I call doing one's gender homework. Gender homework is not just saying I know what I feel this should be, gender homework is studying numbers of persons in a public environment such as a shopping mall, university campus or any other public place to see how others do it. Probably one of the worst mistakes a transgendered person can make is to assume that they know how it's done or how to appear as a person of the opposite gender. Worse yet, they merely try to achieve what they have internally conjured up as the ideal man or woman and run with it. Wrong-o "Cinderella dress"!

Although a topic for an article by itself, something also has to be said for establishing a comfort level with individuals with which interaction occurs. One should not create an atmosphere of tenseness or act uncomfortable. This can cause people to more closely scrutinize an individual in question and possibly open the door uncovering "gender faults" that initially would go unnoticed. Usually this "comfort level" in the gender of choice comes only with experience and much practice. There will undoubtedly be many pitfalls and uncomfortable situations along the way but the only way to attain the desired comfort level is to keep at it.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that the key is to study others, to emulate at times and to emanate a level of security in who one is and how one wants others to perceive them. If this process is followed, and the lessons learned are taken to heart, they will become automatic and gender perception in the gender of choice will be attained.

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Mary JoLynne White #6

CROSSDRESSING: A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

In the Spring of 1989, I became romantically involved with a crossdresser whom I will refer to as Jim/Jean. This relationship helped me see the true level of my openness to crossdressing. I talked the talk of acceptance, but did I walk the walk? Exposed were my own personal values and judgments for both of us to see. Because this person was courageous enough to dance this dance with me, greater clarity evolved concerning what I really wanted in a relationship. For that, I am deeply grateful. This article shares the insights I learned about myself from being involved with a crossdresser. It's one woman's perspective on relating personally to a man who dresses.

I'll never forget the first time I saw Jean. Her six-foot, slender frame was covered with a tight-fitting, white leotard and matching stockings. A bright, cherry-red satin skirt fell from the waist, held up by a matching elastic belt. The red and clear plastic sling back heels accentuated her long, lovely legs. This outfit was not exactly what I would have called day-time dress. Her makeup, according to my standards, was loud and garish. Someone else might have called it theatrical. The eyes were heavy with gold and blue, the lips were outlined with a dark brown pencil and filled in with cherry red lipstick. The final touch, a symbol, was drawn on her forehead with a dark brown eyeliner pencil.

"She could sure use my services as an image consultant", I thought. After the initial shock, I reminded myself that it was important to go beyond appearances and listen to the message. Jean was speaking to a group of men about crossdressing, which was why I was there in the first place. She talked about who she was, and how crossdressing expressed that part of herself. More important than her appearance was the content of her message.

Inwardly, I smiled. She and I were at least in agreement about how society doesn't allow for individuality and expression of self and gender. I continued listening, agreeing with her thoughts and feelings. If I had ignored her because of her appearance, I would have missed a valuable opportunity to learn something about the community, as well as myself. The old adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover", was the first lesson learned from this person.

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

But what about my being seen publicly with this crossdresser? Loud angry voices whispered from the corners of my ego. "She doesn't pass! People will stare at you!" I felt a bit edgy. Going to a TV hangout might be okay. The voices started up again "Her makeup and clothes don't reflect your values and teachings at all! You'll lose your credibility in the community."

I was between a rock and a hard spot. On the one hand, Jean had the right to express herself as she saw fit. I also didn't want to feel uncomfortable. In the past, I might have avoided the situation altogether by sweeping it under the rug. Or, I would have pretended everything was all right and gone along with it, wondering why I had headaches.

I broached the subject as best I could with Jim. Could we work something out so we both felt positive and comfortable? Looking back on it, I see I could have been more direct in my communications with him. I was afraid of hurting his feelings and making him angry--a great example of codependency at its best! Well, I did the best I could, and he was sensitive to my position. We were learning a new dance together. The steps were new and unfamiliar. Every once in a while, one of us might lose step while doing the dance. It didn't make that person wrong. We don't expect

babies to be able to walk with their first steps. So why do we expect ourselves to do the same? Our openness and willingness to talk kept us from falling on our faces. Negotiation and compromise created a win-win situation for both of us. Jean was willing to tone down her look while out with others. I accepted more her distinct flavor for expression.

Until Jean entered my life, I never gave much thought to my judgments about "appropriate" dress. Certain styles were acceptable to me, while others were not. Why? It had to do with public opinion. For many of us, we want to be accepted, so we dress like the people we respect. Generally, how we present ourselves says something about our self-esteem. Someone taking pride in her appearance, dressing tastefully, says, "I value myself. I like who I am. Looking attractive and feminine is important." This person doesn't need to make a loud statement with her appearance because that is not who she is.

On the other hand, I recognize there are brave souls out there contending that loud fashion statements are fun! Jean made me see that a person can dress differently from the norm, and still take pride in his/her appearance.

A few months ago, I stopped by a local TV hangout in New York City with a client. Sitting there, watching the crossdressers and she-males arrive, conflicting emotions arose.

Voices of judgement whispered from my head. "Look at those overweight bodies stuffed into short, tight latex dresses,and skirts, tottering about on 4-5 inch heels! How ridiculous they look! I wouldn't be caught dead in that blonde, curly wig! This is NOT what being a woman is all about!" The anger stirred within. I felt insulted as a woman.

Another voice, coming from a place of compassion, deep within me, queried, "What is it about this atmosphere and the appearance of the TVs that's upsetting you so? What does it mirror for you, Mary JoLynne?" Memories and images of earlier years flashed by. Sadness welled up within me. During my mid-twenties, I was newly divorced and quite caught up in the "looking hot and sexy" routine. Long and curly was my hair. Short and tight were my skirts. My insecurities were so great, I thought the only thing I had to offer a man was my looks. Being unavailable to myself, I generally chose men that were unavailable to me in one form or another; emotionally, physically, spiritually. The memory of me sitting on the bar stool during those lonely nights, smiling meekly at strangers and trying to look cool and calm was no different than what I saw before me that night in New York.

Was I willing to forgive myself for not knowing any better? Could I see how far I've come from those years? Could I be grateful for the lessons I've learned? Looking at the crossdressers again, I felt compassion instead of judgement. Maybe they're just having fun. Or maybe they just want to be noticed and accepted and don't know how to do it any other way. Perhaps they haven't reached the point where they see their feminine side is more than appearance. To me, getting dressed marks only the beginning of the passage to your feminine psyche. There's so much more to it.

Jean also taught me to take more of an equal role in ALL areas of our relationship. I considered myself to be a fairly open, liberal woman when it came to relationships. Jim/Jean showed me I had plenty of room for growth! Embarrassing as it is to admit this, I had certain "princess" attitudes when it came to men. Being a genetic female, I enjoy many of the pleasures associated with that status--being wined and dined and taken care of in small, subtle ways. Who wouldn't want this? If I enjoy the process of getting dressed up, being taken out, and allowing myself to totally let go and surrender into the arms of someone I love, how could I blame Jean for wanting the same things? She deserved them. In order for her to have them within our relationship, I had to step down from my "throne", and assume a flexible role.

I knew how I liked to be treated as a woman, so I used that as a guide for being with Jean. This allowed her to experience her feminine self emotionally from within. We changed roles frequently, depending upon circumstances. Defining roles wasn't important. What mattered was two people who were willing to let the energy and/or control flow back and forth in a flexible, supportive way. Within a 24 hour period, I might go from being an adult woman, to sniffling, frightened three year old child, to angry parent, to supportive, caring friend. Each of us played a variety of roles daily. We didn't always know it. This ought to be allowed to happen to everyone.

Jim also taught me to look at the area of control more closely. Webster's dictionary defines control as, "to exercise restraining or directing influence over; to have power over." Understanding it and seeing how it impacts on relationships helps keep the people involved more honest in their communications with one another.

I now see control has various aspects. It can be obvious and direct , when a person asks another to do something and they do it. It appears more illusive when its presented in a subtle, manipulative manner. Women are masters at this. We're taught early on to communicate indirectly when we want something,

especially if its something from the opposite sex. Men, on the other hand, deal more directly with people. If you want something, ask for it. It's not surprising, then, that men and women sometimes experience difficulty in communicating with each other. This hit home while watching Jean one evening She was all dressed up, having a grand time moving, talking, smiling. I observed her using her 'feminine wiles' on me to get me to do something for her. I was looking into a mirror at myself! So who actually does have the control? I realized there was also a "queen" within me that wants to keep control. She's usually present when I'm experiencing fear on some level.

Its important to note control doesn't occur without the consent of another person. None of us are victims! Some of us would like to think we are, so we don't have to take responsibility for our actions. Well, that's not how the game of life is played--if you want to win! A person has control only because another person has given it to him/her. For example, I might not want to make the decision about where we go out to eat tonight, so you decide. Or, a couple may decide it;'s healthier for them to take turns having control in the sexual arena of their relationship. In doing so, each experiences those dominant and passive parts of their psyches , which WE ALL HAVE.

Many disagreements occur when the parties involved fight for control. You want your partner or friend to do it your way. He/she wants you to do it his/her way! When both people come from their egos, it creates a win-lose situation where someone backs down and the other person wins. Stephen Covey's book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People gives an excellent description for developing this philosophy. Jim and I had our fair share of loud, angry disagreements. What kept the friendship and love between us was the ability to go beyond the ego's need to be right, and move to a place of negotiation and compromise. This could only occur when everyone's feelings were acknowledged without judgement.

Some old-fashioned views of male-female relationships changed through my involvement with this crossdresser. I was brought up believing women could be strong and assertive in the work arena , and also feel weak and vulnerable at home. At the same time, men were to be strong and ever present, in order to take care of the woman. This type of thinking is hogwash! It's unrealistic and limiting to all parties! If I have a small girl within me that wants "Daddy" to take care of me, and make everything better, wouldn't it make sense that men have a small boy and/or girl within them longing for an understanding, nurturing "Mommy" or "Daddy"? I'm not always feeling on top of the world, so why would I expect someone else to be, just because of gender? If I want to be accepted for who I am I must be willing to offer that same acceptance to others.

My experience with men in this community has shown me that they have more sensitivity than the average guy out there. Jim/Jean exemplified this. Jean understood and empathized with ny feelings when at times when Jim couldn't. She was the part of him that could express fears and vulnerabilities, making him all that much more of a real person. Last Thanksgiving, Jim and I spent a difficult day together. I was irritable, and we were exhausted, ready to explode apart. All of a sudden, Jean appeared, and everything was different. She was compassionate and understanding, changing the entire emotional tone of the evening. What a pleasant surprise to know Jim could access that part of himself without dressing. When our egos tried to solve problems, using intellect and control, we created clashes of iron will. Taking the focus off our egos and sharing from a win-win attitude, made us more receptive to each person's thoughts and feelings.

Jim and I have since changed the form of our relationship. The path we travelled together came to a fork where we each continued moving in a new direction. Even though we don't see each other, the love and caring remains. Invaluable are the lessons I've learned from this relationship. Jim/Jean showed me areas in need of healing and helped me learn to be more understanding, accepting and compassionate toward others. I hope the day will come when more people will see the opportunity for growth and healing through interactions with members of this special community. They have a great deal to teach us and for that I'll be forever grateful!

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TAPESTRY MAILBAG

Dear Gender Community,

It has been almost a year since E.P. Dutton released "Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love them". The gay press has been remarkably positive and thoughtful in their reviews, whereas the mainstream reviewers have been silent. As you know, without reviews, bookstore sales are limited. It is the reviews that keep a book in a bookstore beyond the standard three month shelf life.

I associate the neglect by mainstream reviewers to the outrage expressed by the New York Post in 1987 when I received a New York State Council on the Arts grant for this work. Both the reviewers and the newspaper seem unable to see the connection between gender community issues and issues being dealt with by society-at-large: The exploration of ways for men and women to find their identities beyond the limitations offered by contemporary American norms.

I expected that this work would be seen as part of a trend in the '90s; the search for personal identity. I also thought the honesty and intimacy of the photographs and stories in "Transformations" would touch a chord in even the more complacent readers - but instead, it seems to have struck a nerve! Along with its lack of empathy, the mainstream print media has neglected to notice that this is the first book that shows gender dysphorics/euphorics in relationship with family members and out in the daylight of everyday life. The book is also rather unique in its format: combining photographs with detailed interviews.

I will continue to do whatever outreach I can. I'd like to ask any of you who feel so moved to write to some of the magazines listed below. They all received review copies of the book, but none took notice. Perhaps your letters could change this. Please write to these or any other publications where you'd like to see a review of "Transformations".

Thank you for your help at a critical time. **May '91 be a year of joy and peace!**

-- Mariette Pathy Allen

*Mr. Lewis P. Lapham, Editor, **Harpers's**, 666 Broadway, NYC, NY 10012*
*Mr. William Whitworth, Editor, **Atlantic**, 745 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116*
*Ms. Tina Brown, Editor, **Vanity Fair**, 350 Madison Ave., NYC, NY 10017*
*Mr. Jeffrey Slonim, Editor, **Interview**, 575 Broadway, NYC, NY 10012*
*Mr. Robert Gottlieb, Editor, **The New Yorker**, 25 West 43rd St., NYC, NY 10036*
*Mr. Jonathan Z. Larsen, Editor-In-Chief, **The Village Voice**, 842 Broadway, NYC, NY 10003*
*Mr. Victor Navasky, Editor, **The Nation**, 72 Fifth Avenue, NYC, NY 10011*

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Dear Tapestry Readers,

Many of you have met Mariette Pathy Allen at one or more of the community events at which she routinely and generously donates her professional skills as official photographer. Others know her only through the thoughtful and loving images which appear in Tapestry and in her book Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love them.

Feeling Female is a State of Mind!

It has nothing to do with gender. We all have masculine and feminine energies within us. When we give free reign to both of these energies they cooperate in balance and harmony - and we can be at peace.

I can help you refine your womanly image - and empower you to experience and express the feminine side of your personality. Together we will attend to your color coordination, your makeup, your posture, gesture, and movement, and your voice. I also offer shopping services.

If you wish, I can help you to create a healthier balance between your masculine and feminine energies. I offer phone consultations as well as personal appointments.

Please call me to arrange an initial interview.

Jo Lynne White
San Diego, CA (619) 492-8816

We all wish Mariette the highest personal success with 'Transformations'. This alone should be sufficient to motivate many to take actions on her behalf. That aside, I argue that our own self interest compels us to act.

Mariette's work is a uniquely honest artistic statement of what we are all about. How often have you been angered by the ridiculous and bigoted way in which we are portrayed in television sitcoms and in the movies? How long and how deeply have we suffered as a result of society's negative images of and attitudes about cross-dressing? The needless guilt and shame many of us have experienced is coated in these images and attitudes, many of which we once held ourselves.

In 'Transformations', Mariette fights this tide and brings the truth, the positive prideful truth of our lives, into the light. Her focus is rich in underlying humanity and never never resorts to the common condescension of titillating or shocking images.

To paraphrase Kate Borenstein from her wonderful recent play "Hidden: A Gender", gender can be a playground or a battlefield. For most in society, it is primarily the former. For us it is always both. We must extend our political reach beyond the public restroom front. We must summon the self-esteem we have fought so hard to achieve and take individual actions to bring Mariette's artistic voice into the mainstream.

Write a letter to the editors listed above. It's easy. Besides, you've owed it to yourself for a long time.

-- Michelle Miles (NY)

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The Alphabet Prayer

I don't know where I heard it, but the story goes something like this...

A mother was passing her daughter's bedroom one night when she thought she heard someone talking within. Upon opening the door, she saw her daughter kneeling as if in prayer saying, "...D, E, F, G, H, I, J..."

In reply to her mother's obvious question, the daughter said, "I didn't know what to say to God tonight, so I was saying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them in the right order, 'cause He knows what's in my heart."

Childlike innocence, to be sure, but a world of truth in her prayer, too. I don't know why the story stuck with me, but it hit me that I pretty much feel the same way as that child did, whenever I pray to God about my being a crossdresser.

It's true, I don't recite the alphabet and then say to God to do the rest. What I usually do, however, is pray something like this:

> "God, you know what is in my heart. Please look into that heart, past all the outward trappings, and see the real me, whether masculine or feminine, and know that I love you.
>
> I don't know why You made me like I am, but I do know that You don't make mistakes. So, whatever the reason, dear God, I am who I am because You willed it.
>
> You know that whenever I am dressed as a woman, I don't mock them or You, but rather I give them the highest praise that I possibly can. In my own way, I am paying homage to one of Your greatest creations -- woman. Surely, that cannot be wrong.
>
> Please help me, Lord, to under stand why you make me like this, and if that is not Your wish, please help me to accept myself as I am until I do understand.
>
> I love You, Lord. Look past the clothing and see the love.
>
> Amen."

So, in my own way, I am very much like that young girl. I am asking God to look into my heart and see what is truly there. I am asking Him to take all the words that I pray or think and, like the letters of the child's alphabet, put them "in the right order, 'cause He knows what's in my heart."

Jan Nagurski (CA)

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Response to Priscilla's letter in #56:

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the letter about submissive transvestites from Priscilla in issue #56. First, I suggest the following book:

Scott, Gini Graham, EROTIC POWER: AN EXPLORATION OF DOMINANCE AND SUBMISSION, Secaucus, N.J., Citadel Press, 1983. $9.95 Telephone: 1-800-447-2665
The original title was: DOMINANT WOMEN, SUBMISSIVE MEN

This came from a book list given out at the last IFGE Coming Together-Working Together Convention in Framingham, during a presentation by William Henken and Sybil Holiday.

I share many of the ideas expressed by Priscilla, and am trying to find a way to explore and realize them. I suggest you may find it easier to do them one at a time, because, you are getting into a sub-subculture (perhaps I should start a group for law enforcement professionals 6' and over who are also submissive TV's).

Henken and Holiday, (415) 923-1150, have a list of organizations dealing with "erotic power play", but again, these are divided into subgroups, i.e. dominance and submission, bondage and discipline, sadomasochistic, heterosexual or gay/lesbian. Thus, I could be labeled as a hetero-submissive-masochistic-law enforcement TV over 6', interested in light bondage and corsets, but only on Thursday full-moons. Alas, what are we to do?

-- Terri P. (MN)

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Letter from prison:

Dear Editor,

From my own personal experience, I can say that the transsexual organizations and so-called transsexual "support groups" on the streets are not at all concerned about their transsexual sisters in prison, lip service aside. It appears that these "support groups"

aren't supporting anyone but themselves, their egos and their treasuries.

While these support groups are holding gala conventions, luncheons, dinners, and fund-raisers at extravagant plazas, events that you must pay to attend, a transsexual sister may be lying naked on a cold concrete floor, in a strip cell of some prison's psychiatric wing, without a blanket, because in a flash of desperation she became suicidal. Or, she may be laying in a prison hospital with a stitched scrotum after trying to castrate herself. While the support groups are stuffing themselves at their banquets in celebration of their "achievements", a transsexual sister in prison is stuffing herself with fat-rich second quality food in order to be overweight, that she may maintain some semblance of breasts. That's how the minds of some people work. Desperate people.

There is much literature on the market put out by "support groups". None, however, offer anything of significance to transsexual prisoners, who are the minority in the transsexual community, and the most poor. I doubt if the treasuries of the support groups would suffer a dent if they made some basic literature and assistance available free to transsexual prisoners... literature having to do with female hormones, or medical litigation, or AIDS, or assistance in obtaining hormone therapy in prison. These organizations must acknowledge to themselves, and in their literature, that there are transsexuals in prison, that we are undergoing more degrading treatment than any caste of inmates because of our transgender orientation, that we need your help, and then come together and develop a program for the purpose of addressing the reality of the transsexual in prison, those of us who want and need help that otherwise is unavailable to us. Many of us are determined enough, but lack resources and information, lack support. This can lead to very much frustration, and strip cells and hospital beds.

I wag an accusing finger at all who think transsexualism is about wearing dresses and high heels, and having a party. Transsexualism is a deeply serious matter. I would advise you not to call yourselves a "support group" of the transsexual community unless you are, in fact, going to support the transsexual community and not your own selfish individual interests.

We who have-not know the pain of being a woman. We know the oppression of being put down and denied, the depression of being ignored. We know the taste of the death wish. The power that has made us what we are is the witness. We speak truth and our voices will remain no matter how many veils you wear or how loud the music, no matter how many crumbs you let fall from your banquet tables.

I know well of what I speak. I am the woman who slept on that concrete floor and laid in that hospital bed. I am the one who has written to "support groups" and received their well-printed propaganda. I am the one who asked them for help, and never heard from them again. You who claim yourselves to be women, out there in the free world, would learn well from your sisters in prison. We are accountable, yes, but so are you.

-- Lofofora C. (CA)

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Dear Editor,

I am a still-closeted male crossdresser who is thankful that she came across your beautiful magazine (Tapestry #56). It is certainly refreshing to find answers to many of my questions in a format that is so well thought out. Some magazines exploit cross-dressing for monetary gain, but your magazine offers genuine insights into a side of my life that has baffled me for so long.

I have been dressing since high school (I just had my fifteenth reunion). My family and friends have not yet discovered my feminine side, and I don't know if I am ready to let them. I am becoming more comfortable, and will eventually let them meet Caroline.

At first, I was not much into makeup, I preferred the way my sister's clothing felt (and the way I felt wearing her clothing). As I gained experience, I would experiment with her makeup. I have to admit that I would get carried away and sometimes, I'd look a little like a hooker. I have grown a lot since then and do a rather passable job with my face.

Rev. Kim's address helped me out, especially when she stated that, "if you dress to look like a caricature of a woman, rather than a true woman, you are only hurting yourself". Although I have never stepped a foot outside my closet, her message has helped me to prepare for the time when eventually I will.

I agree that we should support feminine issues, and believe that if a woman does the same job that a man does, she should be paid equally. If I, as a crossdresser, can be labeled a "feminist", then a feminist I am.

Renee Chevalier's personal experience article tugged at my heart. I felt despair when her parents shut her out of their lives after becoming Renee full-time. I was cheering (and crying a tear of happiness) when she and her parents met at the front desk during the convention. I am truly happy that her folks had a wonderful time, fostering the fact that cross-dressers are real people. I can only hope that when my folks find out , I will be as well accepted.

I enjoyed the pictures from the convention. There certainly are a lot of happy, beautiful women in attendance. Someday, I hope to attend a convention such as this. Maybe at California Dreamin' in May. Who knows?

I can relate personally in some way, with each of the articles. I am afraid of friends and family discovering Caroline too soon, but I know that the insight that I gain from your magazine will be of great help when the time comes. Keep up the good and much appreciated work. Thank you!

-- Caroline Clark

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Dear Editor,

I just finished wading through GENDER DYSPHORIA: DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT, edited by Betty W. Steiner. What a bunch of narcissists most of these so-called psycho-scientists are! They seem much more interested in

their own methodology (contra their rivals') than in gender dysphoric human beings.

I learned little or nothing new from these 600 pages. What I did learn is that gender dysphoric people now have a new problem. Twenty years ago, we had trouble encouraging any academic or medical institution to pay attention to us. Now, it appears that we have become a chic phenomenon to study, but little of the research I have read is relevant.

I plan to tear some of these so-called research efforts up in my humble column in the near future; but overall, the studies I have read recently (John Money's work very much included) suffer from two major flaws:

1. Insufficient and tainted client samples: The average sample for most of these studies was less than 100; and at max, as I recall, 500. In the past ten years, I have met or interviewed or received correspondence from more than 5000. Many of the gender dysphorics I know would amaze these jokers with their personal histories (like a congressman I know who is currently running for a governorship!)....I also note that most of the clients who appear in these studies show up at the shrink's with some other presenting problem which the researcher then tries to fit into his schema of gender dysphoria. What we need is a study of "normals" (life-copers!) in the GD population.

2. The researchers still seem to be more obsessed with sexual preferences than with gender consciousness: I believe that this may be because the researchers understand sex better than gender, possibly because most of the researchers reveal themselves to be non-gender dysphoric, but highly libidinal. What is needed is a study which compares the range of sexual preferences and sexual deviations in a non-gender dysphoric population against a broad sample of the gender dysphoric. My theory is that the rain of preference and deviations will be seen to fall equally on the just and the unjust.

Boy, would I like to debate a few of these jokers!

-- Haley Tiresius (FL)

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Response to Priscilla's letter in #56:

Dear Editor,

I just read Tapestry #56, the third issue I've read so far. Among the many fascinating articles and poems, I noticed a letter which touches directly on my own situation.

Priscilla's letter on the connection between some transvestites and erotic submissiveness illuminates not only her quandary, but my own as well. Although the specifics of our situations differ, the similarities are striking. First, we both (like many of our sisters) share some unresolved feelings about who we are, what we hope for, where we fit into both society in general and the CD/TV/TS subculture, and how we are to work out our destinies.

Recent scientific experiments, wildlife observations, and psychological research indicate that there may be a strong genetic component to submissive behavior in addition to the socially learned elements. I've encountered those ideas before, both as a transvestite and as a recovering alcoholic. These things neither excuse nor explain away anything, of course. I remain responsible for my identity, including the parts it would be convenient to deny, including the parts other people think I should feel guilty about. It's up to me to figure out how to live with who I am and what I need.

Now, Priscilla would like to be forcibly feminized by a dominant woman. Although that fantasy is not central to my own desires, our differences are primarily of degree rather than of kind. Regardless of our particular desires, we submissives seek intimacy with dominants. That's the yin and the yang of it.

It's tempting to get into a discussion of WHY we are submissive (or dominant) transvestites. WHY are we so "weak"? WHY do we need to be "degraded" like that? WHY can't we be more like our enlightened, churchgoing, fun-loving, politically correct sisters? WHY don't we engage in the "normal" relationships - based on equality - that feminists, mainstream gays, and liberal straights advocate? That's a serious issue, but I don't have a pat answer, and its not relevant to what I felt when I read Priscilla's letter.

One of the things Priscilla conveys to me is her frustration with the tantalizing nature of her desire for a dominant woman: wanting the apparently unattainable. Frustration at realizing that paying someone to play that role for an evening is entirely unsatisfying. Frustration with theories which state that we became submissives as a way of meeting our need while denying that those needs exist (finding someone to force us to do that which we want to do anyhow). That is not only insultingly simplistic, it ignores the real sense of fulfillment I feel when satisfying my master/mistress' desires, and the intense symbiotic intimacy of that relationship. It negates the months -or years- dominants and submissives invest in learning to know, accept, trust, and please each other as their relationship evolves and deepens.

I also sense Priscilla's frustration at living in a society in which aggressiveness, ambition, and dynamic, take charge attitudes are so obviously admired and rewarded. Conversely, passivity, docility, obedience, and subservience are generally scorned. We "submissives" don't feel that we are evil or contemptible. We're trying to deal not only with the problems of feminine males in society, but with the greatly increased hazards of being submissively feminine males. We seek relationships in which our dominant partners will love, value, and respect us within the confines of our special, mutually gratifying bond. Is that so awful?

Priscilla accurately mentions the virtual absence of dominant women for submissive transvestites. I'm not sure why that imbalance exists these days, but it does. How do we deal with that? Do we find a way to be "cured"? Do we continue the futile search? Do we lower our lofty dreams and settle for, perhaps, an assertive woman who might allow a little crossdressing? If we are "bisexual" (in addition to all our other "sins"!), can we hope to find or attract a sensitive, creatively dominant transvestite? Unfortunately, they're rather scarce, too. Well, whatever our particular situation

might be, how we choose to negotiate fantasy and reality, how we navigate through sexual preference, emotional risk-taking, and so on, remains a very personal thing. Like Priscilla, I don't have answers. I'm not even sure I'm asking all the right questions!

I guess, like everybody else, we're just going through life trying to find a little love, romance, happiness, security and fulfillment in our lives. I'd love to hear the points of view of other submissive and dominant transvestites.

-- Monika G. (MA)

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Letter from prison:

Dear Editor,

I've just received a newsletter from the Minority Trust in New Zealand, and enclosed was, in part, a speech from the 5th annual 'Coming Together' Convention in Boston. As I was reading, I was so pleased to read that the subject of the conflict between TS's and TV's was brought to light.

As a transsexual, I must confess that I was one of those who couldn't understand the TV process. I was caught up in a fantasy that 98% of TS people experience, due to the fact that the majority of them want to, after sex reassignment, cut with the past and fade off into society as men or women. I couldn't understand why a TV would remain open. After coming to prison and really taking a hard look at what my life was about, I decided that one aspect of my life that I wanted to be proud of was my transsexualism. Inspired by the work of some of the gender community's leaders, I decided that I, too, would devote myself to working on the community's behalf - my community's.

For the past 4 1/2 years, I, along with a few other TS's, have put out a newsletter for TS's in prison. Although my present position doesn't allow me to put out the type of newsletter I would like to, I know that even what little I have been able to contribute has helped others in my situation. When I leave prison, I would like to continue dedicating my experience and education to the TS and TV community, and keep on working on it's behalf on the outside. I want to go on being known as a TS and continue taking pride in that fact, even after my surgery. I feel that it is necessary for us to pull together in order to achieve certain basic rights, as well as the respect of society at large - just as African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities have done. At this point, I would like to extol IFGE's work in this direction. IFGE's remarkable efforts are obviously geared towards making the best future possible for the members of the gender community, and I think that they have done some truly groundbreaking work so far.

On behalf of Mrs. Patricia Fisher of FACT Canada, Lynn Marie Scribner, and myself and other members of "Transsexuals in Prison", I would like to thank you for your work in, and commitment to the field. I myself look forward to helping further the effort when I come out.

Vanessa Meriwether
Pendleton, Indiana Reformatory

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Dear Editor,

On my first morning at the IFGE Coming Together Convention in Boston in March of 1990, Virginia Prince confronted me abruptly in the convention registration office with the question, "Why do you do this?". I responded with some lame rationalization, which brought the response, "Oh phooey, you just haven't examined yourself yet.". This shook me into thinking instead of just feeling good.

Some often used justifications for crossdressing are that we do it to compliment women or to emulate them. Such claims are unacceptable to most women, and it is not difficult to understand why. For one thing, you do not need to dress as a woman in order to emulate feminine behavioral qualities (cross-gender competencies), and we weaken our own position as men when we rationalize our crossdressing as a clinical act benefitting someone else. Probably no man honestly believes that he is crossdressing for the good of women. He is doing it for his own good, and if women benefit, so much the better.

Personally, I do not feel that I must justify my act of crossdressing to a non-crossdresser, although I do owe them some proof that my crossdressing does not endanger them. I crossdress because I want to, and because it's fun. So the real question of importance is not why I crossdress, but rather, why I enjoy it.

I suspect that the ultimate answer is rooted in many diverse areas, certainly including those of human rights and freedom. Those who live under restrictive political regimes are often ready to leave behind everything they know and own--homes, friends, jobs, family--just to gain freedom of expression. That priority outweighs other things. But first, let's consider that crossdressing is enjoyed simply because its fun.

I engage in lots of activities that are fun and enjoyable: playing golf, grouse hunting, trout fishing, gardening--and nobody has ever asked me why these activities are fun. The reasons are probably genetic and environmental, but no one has ever said, "You can't do that". If they did, certainly the freedom issue would be raised. Perhaps the reason that some ask why I crossdress is that they see no fun in it. Well, if they see no fun in grouse hunting, then don't do it, but please allow me. And believe me, I won't shoot you.

I enjoy crossdressing because it brings me pleasurable feelings. It is a source of merriment and elation. It delights me, and gives me a sense of internal gratification and satisfaction that comes from fulfilling a fantasy. And fantasy, as all Freudians know, is a superbly fruitful sanity maintenance mechanism. Through it, one has the freedom (hopefully), to gratify frustrated desires in imaginary achievements. If unopposed, the results can be constructive in helping one be a better person. The rewards felt are of a spiritual dimension--almost like being "saved". One feels whole, complete, and at peace with oneself.

Whatever it is that motivates people toward freedom is distilled in crossdressing, where one is free to project oneself beyond oneself, beyond the ordinary, to become absorbed in a deeper, more inclusive reality. Democ-

racies have long promoted such achievement, and built political systems to protect one's right to pursue it. As long as one's pursuit activity does not infringe on another's right to do the same, then we should be free to follow our fantasy, whether it involves becoming a successful grouse hunter, computer programmer, or crossdresser.

In short, I crossdress because I enjoy it, and because it expresses the essence of freedom and self-fulfillment. And I am willing to fight for the rights of others to freely pursue their dream--whatever it is.

-- Cheryl D. (NY)

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Response to Wendi Pierce's Editorial in #56):

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading Wendi's editorial, "Who Speaks For The Transsexual?" for the second time. She makes some very interesting points, and I can understand her point of view. However, I must disagree with the closing of her editorial. If we cannot speak up for our own rights, than how can we expect others to speak for us?

The need for rights is NOW, not in ten to twenty years from now when some other group has been convinced to champion our cause.

I fully understand the goal of "the Stealth Transsexual", and it would be great if such a thing were possible. But reality is different, there will always be someone who knows your "secret". I'm not saying to wear it like a scarlet letter, but it's there.

I understand the problems. I've been asked to leave stores, have had uneasy landlords, and at present, can't get term life insurance.

If my employer knew my rights, I'd probably be out of a job. He thinks Art. VII covers me, and I'm not going to tell him any differently.

After reading the results of Senate Bill 933, I can no longer sit back and hope that some other organization will protect my rights. It would be nice if we could protect our "stealth", but sometimes, you have to show the enemy what it's up against.

-- Melissa D. (NY)

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Dear Sisters,

First, a personal note about my feelings.

We need to find a voice for ourselves. Twenty years ago, Stonewall, a TV bar in New York's Greenwich Village, was raided by police. This led to what is now known as the Stonewall Riots. The Gay Community rose up and took over our fight, made it their own, and started their long road towards dignity and respect. They are not there yet, but they are much closer than they were twenty years ago.

At the anniversary of Stonewall, the Gay Community has Gay Pride Week, which includes a March in NYC. Mayor Dinkins had the Gay Men's Choir singing at his inauguration. For years, there has been a Lesbian and Gay Liaison Office at the Mayor's office (started under Mayor Koch). The Lesbian and Gay community has even established a Community Center.

I don't mean to denigrate anything that the Lesbian and Gay Community has accomplished. I only use their example to show what we HAVEN'T done for ourselves, especially in the New York Metropolitan area. There are a variety of unconnected self-help groups in our (N.Y.C.) area. We have some bars/restaurants which have, for reasons unknown to me, TV/TS clubs. We have three retailers who cater to some of our more fetishistic needs. The stores are all owned by non-TG people.

We need our own place, a center, run by and for us, not by some charity or profit center for some outsider. In addition, I'd like to go to a place where the bar isn't dominated by sisters who are looking to pay for their SRS (Sex Reassignment Surgery) at $150 per customer. I'd like to go to a place where there is free and open discussion of any topic, no matter how taboo to mainstream America. I'd like to have a place to go where I can meet other TG's, and people who like to be around us, whatever their gender orientation. I'd like to have a place where I can store my private things, play with hair and makeup, be myself around people like me. In my conversations with sisters in New York, many have expressed similar feelings. Some people don't like bars. Some people don't like to start their evening out at midnight. One sister told me that she's too old to start the night at midnight and get home at dawn - as a result, I began to worry about myself and what will happen to my social life when I can no longer keep those hours. There are many other issues to be considered here. One I have always wondered about is the difficulty in getting quality medical, psychological (for those who wish it) and other professional services with dignity and respect.

The above is only my opinion. Now is the time for other voices to be heard. Please send your ideas to me at the address below. It is time we had a voice of our own. I am just one voice, we get strength from a ground swell of voices.

Barbara Fortune
P.O. Box 350369
Brooklyn, NY 11235-0007

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Dear Editor,

I just saw "Hidden: A Gender", a play sponsored by the gay and lesbian student groups at Tufts and MIT. I'm very glad I went, and I thought I'd share some of my impressions with your readership.

It was good drama, nearly two hours of intense involvement on the part of the audience. The group, "Outlaw Productions", consisted of just three actors and two other members involved in production, yet the results were most powerful. It conveyed the sort of message that most transsexuals wish that someone would give the world, a sympathetic look at people who took half their lives to find out who and which gender they really are.

Kate Bornstein, a post-operative M-F transsexual, wrote, rewrote, and still

rewrites the play, and also plays a male part in it. The company first put on the play in San Francisco at the Theater Rhinoceros, and has since been taking the show around the country at minimum expense, often presenting it on college campuses. They, the props, and other equipment fit into a van, so this is minimalist theater - but it works. More could hardly be better.

Though, in Kate Bornstein's own words, "Hidden: A Gender" is a play written by a transsexual lesbian, speaking of transsexuality, for transsexuals, their friends, families and lovers", it somehow exudes a universal appeal, and is of potential value to non-transsexuals as well. The author holds that gender is a socially constructed concept, and is therefore fluid. "One can, theoretically", says Bornstein, "move through a dazzling array of genders. It is particularly fascinating to observe the intricate series of barricades erected by the dominant culture to prevent just that. This is what the play is all about.".

The play was followed by a session, during which the members of "Outlaw Productions" answered questions on gender issues posed by the audience. If Hidden: A Gender comes to a theater near you, I recommend that you go see it, "dressed" or in mufti.

-- Holly C. (MA)

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Letter from South Africa:

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the very fine group photograph of the IFGE Board of Directors that arrived recently. Many of the names are well known to us and it is a great pleasure to be able to match the names with the faces. It is only a pity that some of the names upon which we look as old friends are missing from the photograph.

With a little luck, the picture should be suitable for reduction and printing in our magazine 'Fanfare'; with this in mind, I have sent it to Diane, our president and editor in Cape Town, where it will become a treasured part of the Phoenix Society's archive collection.

This letter gives me the chance to tell you how much we value and appreciate the hard work and endeavors on the part of the IFGE. It is a long-held belief on the part of 'Phoenix' that we, the gender transients of this world, are a nation within nations, a global village, beyond national boundaries, race, creed, or politics. IFGE and the magazine TV/TS Tapestry have done much to bring this ideal into being by bringing about an understanding of our condition, which has benefitted and enlightened the community itself, as well as the public at large.

TV/TS Tapestry has become something akin to a transgenderal Bible to us at the Phoenix, as appears to be the case with the many sister groups and organizations in the U.S.A., Britain, Europe, New Zealand, Scandinavia and Australia, with which we are in regular contact and with whom we have an exchange of news, ideas, material and information. In a number of instances, it is only through IFGE and Tapestry that this rewarding and valuable situation has come about.

We look forward to the continuation of the ever growing association between the Phoenix Society and the IFGE.

Thelma P.
Overseas Coordinator,
The Phoenix Society, South Africa

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Dear Editor,

I found the Tapestry, a gem amid the garbage about a month ago. This was some experience. Quite frankly, I was "stunned". Until then, I had never heard of organizations for crossdressers, or realized that there were so many others like myself. For over fifteen years, I have lived alone in my little closet.

During the past month, I have at times been elated, confused, depressed, and not really sure about making a commitment to this strange behavior. This was made even more difficult by a decision taken just before I found Tapestry to, once again, "dump the lot".

However, Tapestry arrived just in time. It's changed my mind, saved my wardrobe, and once again, I'm back in panties. Make-up and feminization training are planned, and who knows, maybe next year I will make it to the IFGE convention. It all sounds great and I look forward to active participation in our community of wonderful sisters. Long live the art of pink!

-- Pamela G. (CAN)

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A Tribute to Betty Ann Lind:

Dear Editor,

When I decided I wanted to write a tribute to Betty Ann, I pondered on just how I could do this. Should I list all the improvements she has imparted to Fantasia Fair? Should I mention the endless hours she spent during the whole year getting the program lined up and making it work? Should I discuss her periods of "Drifty Poo" that would come about because of all the burdens she shouldered with a general health condition that was sometimes less than desirable? I then decided that the only way I could do such a tribute would be by telling the way she had related directly to me.

I first met Betty Ann Lind in 1983 when I first attended Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, MA. It should be said that it was really my first time out of the closet.

My experiences, and the new friends I made and have maintained to the present time, have become very important to me, and it would represent a dissertation in itself to describe all these situations. One of these very special ladies is Betty Ann.

At that first Fair in 1983, Betty Ann was in charge of the Fan Fair Follies and my participation in the Follies was one of my major goals - or maybe I should say it was the fulfillment of a fantasy that I had hoped to fulfill prior to attending the Fair. She ran the Follies in an extremely organized manner, using her previous experience as a female impersonator to put

together a show that I felt had a very professional air to it. The theme music for our Follies in that year of '83 (which was performed in the old Madeira Room of the Pilgrim House with its infamous post at stage center), was from Le Cage. I had never seen the show before at that point, so it was my first time hearing the music and lyrics. Put together my first opportunity to perform ala femme in front of a live audience, the music from Le Cage, and Betty Ann's excellent direction, and you can see that I had an experience my first year that probably can never be duplicated.

I continued going to the Fair after that first year, and starting in '84, was joined by my wife Barbara, who took a very active role in the couples programs. It was a couple of years later that Betty Ann became Fair Coordinator and asked me if I could run the Follies. Could I use old lines like: "Is the Pope Catholic?" - Yes, of course I would! Directing the show was, and still is on of the great loves of my life. So it was in 1986 that I took over the production and direction of the Follies with much backing and advice from Betty Ann. Any success I've had with the Follies in these subsequent years was due to the foundation that Betty Ann created.

The main thrust of this tribute is not the Follies, but what Betty Ann has done for the overall Fantasia Fair program since she took over as Coordinator. When she took over the Fair, it existed on a fairly firm foundation, but she enhanced and built upon this foundation, and created a program that I feel is one of the finest social-educational experiences available in our country today for cross-dressers.

We all know that nothing stays the same, and for personal and health reasons, Betty Ann is stepping down as Coordinator of Fantasia Fair. We can all only hope that the present excellence she has built into this project will be maintained, and not diluted.

I cannot easily put into words the privilege of having known and worked with Betty Ann Lind these years. I wish her all the luck in the world and I thank her very much.

-- Maureen E. Taylor (NY)

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Dear Editor,

Approximately five months ago while my wife and I were in our municipal library, I was scanning the card catalog for crossdressing and/or transvestism, or a similar subject. The only reference that was contained in the file was for "The Society for the Second Self". I jotted down the address and sent off for information. Approximately ten days later, I received a brochure and order forms.

I was reading the brochure and to my astonishment, I found out that I was not alone in my desires. For many years, approximately fifteen, I had this desire to dress and convey myself as a female at times. This was after a couple of Halloween Parties (in which, by the way, I had won a $200 prize at each). I will eventually write the whole story to explain how my wife is exceptional in supporting me, but I don't want to include the whole thing here in this letter.

While reading the Tri-Ess publications, I happened to come across a magazine called the "Tapestry Journal", which was referenced in articles. I jotted down the phone number and address. Approximately a week after that, my wife called me at my office to tell me that she had taped something special for me to see after work.

When I arrived home, my wife told me to sit and watch this tape. She started the tape, and there was Joan Rivers interviewing three women and a man. The very next word from Joan Rivers was 'Crossdressing'. Well, needless to say (since we all know more or less what Joan's interviews are like), it was good...but Joan had done little research on the subject prior to the interview. Her questions were unstructured, and could have been more beneficial had she had studied some information beforehand.

I think that the panel handled Joan Rivers very well, something which took a lot of courage on their part. Great job!

Anyway, after watching this interview, I saw that the address given at the end of the program was the same which was referenced in the Tri-Ess publication. The next day, I called the IFGE and requested a subscription to Tapestry. Within a week, I had my issue #55 as well as other information regarding the Foundation.

As with all the other material I had received in the past, I read the issue from cover to cover, and my wife has also read it. She hasn't read it as much as I since - I still read through it each evening. This issue has given me a little clearer understanding of my own feelings and desires. Both of us have again looked in the library for more information on the subject, and there is none.

After scanning the additional information contained in the package, we ordered some books. These books arrived within one week of my order.

I am very much interested in increasing our knowledge of this subject. We are forever reading and there is never a time in our home that you don't find either of us with a book.

-- Michelle S. (AL)

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(The following letter was addressed to Holly C., IFGE Office Assistant.)

Dear Holly,

Thank you for your nice letter, but I have to totally disagree with you on one part, and that is that crossdressing is an addiction. I do not believe this at all, and my point of view is that it comes from within, through connecting to the feminine side that all of us have within. Why some make this connection, and others do not, I do not know; but I do know that once that connection has been made, there is nothing that can undo it.

I made my connection as a child around the age of six. During the next thirty-nine years, I fought it tooth and nail but could never overcome it, except for a year or two now and then. Since my teens, I have been through four different wardrobes, and I'm on my fifth and final one now. If crossdressing were an addiction, then I would have never had a second wardrobe because I would have

defeated it in my life. You see, my will power is extremely strong. In fact, everyone in my family jokes about my willpower being as strong as a herd of elephants. I can stop, overcome, turn around anything if I say that I'm going to do it; anything, that is, except my crossdressing. I have tried my very best to stop, and actually did for a couple of years, but the desire was there all the time. I was very miserable during that period. I'm also very religious, and have a very strong faith in the Lord, but not even this could stop me from dressing. I used to smoke for nearly fifteen years. One day, I just said that I was going to stop, put down my pipe, and have never even wanted to smoke since. A couple of years down the line, I had a weight problem, which I overcame in the same way. I took off fifty pounds, and have kept the weight off for over six years, now. Finally, I come from a family that drinks. Now, I do not think that there is anything wrong in doing so, as long as the person is controlling the drinking, and not vice-versa. When I was twenty, I got totally drunk at a party at college, and missed over a week out of my life. I said, "never again", and since then, if I drink a six-pack a year, that is going overboard for me. I'm known for my word, and everybody at home and work knows that if I say it, I mean it, and will do it or die. I come from the old school, whose rules my father and grandfather taught me. The only thing that I have said that I was going to do in my life, and did not do was STOP MY DRESSING. It would be easier for me to cut my arm off than stop, because it is just as much a part of me as the arm, if not more.

Up till early 1988, I dressed on and off at different times. Why I did it, I did not know, and I hated both it and myself for not being able to stop. I hated it because I thought that I might be gay. I looked for information at libraries, since I thought that this might help me understand what was going on, but I never found any help in this way. I could not talk with my mother or father, because the mere mention of the word "sex" on my part would have resulted in exile to my room for a week or two. Later on, I could not share this with my wife, because among other things, I was to uninformed about this phenomenon to hope to be able to explain it to her. I thought that marriage would help me stop, but I was wrong. Every time I had stopped dressing for a while, the desire would come back much stronger than before. It was not until I had seen the Donahue Show, on which they mentioned Tri-Ess, that I knew I was not the only person out there that had the desire to crossdress. I taped that show because I was looking for information to help my oldest son, who was twenty-one at the time and had just run away from home because his crossdressing had caused him to think he was gay. He was afraid to face my wife and me. I was at the point of suicide when I found the Donahue Show, because I believed that I had passed these traits on to my son, and that he was gay because of me. The self-hate that I felt was bringing me to the point of self-destruction. After seeing the show, I wrote and got all the information, and later joined Tri-Ess. I was relieved to learn that I wasn't crazy, gay, etc., but just a crossdresser. I was so happy, that I started to dress any and all the time that I could.

It was not long before my wife picked up on it, then found all my letters, pictures and wardrobe hidden in the attic one day when I was at work. It was at that point that I dropped my post office box along with my Tri-Ess membership in order to work things out with my wife. We have been married now for over twenty-seven years. Yes, we have worked through my crossdressing together because it was the first time that I had come to a point of understanding it totally. I have never been very good at talking, so I wrote my feelings and thoughts in the form of a book during my lunch breaks and in the evening after work. I started back as far as I could remember, and worked through all the years past. I even wrote about my hopes and dreams for the future. After I finished writing that book, I gave it to her to read. That was the very best thing that I had ever done, because it gave me a chance to work all my feelings out, and it also helped my wife to understand me. Since being out of the closet, my wife and other family members have noticed a big change in my personality. I have started feeling in peace with myself, and am no longer full of hatred and hostility. I'm a far better person now than I have ever been at any point in my life. It is the very first time that I have ever come to the point of liking, no, loving myself, as opposed to the self-hatred I had felt before. So now maybe you can see why I feel as I do, and believe totally and wholeheartedly that crossdressing comes from within, and is not just an addiction.

I now dress as I need or desire to, and share this as I do the rest of my time with my wife. She helps me shop for clothing, and my wardrobe has improved greatly. She also has helped me with my wigs and makeup. Tammy is not just mine now, but ours. There are only a few conditions on my dressing and they are that she has to know if I'm going to be dressed when she comes home from work in case she brings a colleague or friend home with her. Next is that I do not go out in public, though we have gone on evening (after nine) walks in the neighborhood with me being dressed.

I pass easily, and no one has picked up on me yet. One time, I had a policeman standing next to me waiting to use the pay phone I was on. As I left, he said 'hello' to me, and I just nodded my head and went on my way. Talk about being scared - my heart was about to jump out of my body, but fortunately, I remembered to relax and just be myself, and everything was okay. One thing that I've really noticed is that little girls around nine or older tend to really eye you over. Maybe it's just because they're at the stage where they are learning to be ladies, so they check everybody out.

I generally dress about once every week or so, and sometimes even more frequently. I enjoy cooking and doing the household chores while dressed. I enjoy modeling for pictures I take of myself. I like looking at these pictures not only to see how far I have come in improving my look, but also to see how I can improve it even more. The old saying, "You've come a long way, baby" most certainly applies to me!

We are planning for the Fourth of July, when our sons will be over for the day. We are going to sit down with them, and I'm going to tell them all about myself, hoping that it will help both of them in their lives, plus help make the family bond a little stronger.

Somehow, we do not feel that this revelation will create problems for them at all.

Thank you again for your support, and please continue helping our community.

-- Tammy Lynn M. (FL)

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Response to Priscilla's Letter #56:

Dear Editor,

I read Priscilla's letter in **Tapestry**, issue 56, and I share many of her fantasies about being forcefully effeminized by a dominant woman. I share her experience of having spent money both in fulfilling this fantasy with professional dominatrixes, and with psychotherapists, sometimes concurrently. And I acknowledge the abundance, if not preponderance of submissive TV pornography. Sometimes I love to immerse myself in such fiction.

To my mother, and thence to me, came the feeling that all things erotic were matters of misbehavior and guilt. My feelings of crossdressing had been hopelessly covered with layers of guilt and repression. And since it had been a female authority figure who had instilled the guilt, I subconsciously needed a female authority figure to remove it -- to tell me, "It's OK if I give you my permission". Still, the guilt was so strong, I felt I should be punished when I so badly misbehaved.

So, I too have paid women to relieve my guilt; who would demand that I do what I myself wanted so much to do. I mention this, not because my intellect accepts it for one minute, but because I feel Priscilla and I are emotional siblings in this respect.

So why aren't these things shared, among those of us who have such fantasies, in TV groups and in **Tapestry**? I think that it is because neither such a group, nor **Tapestry**, is the appropriate forum for our individual choices on how we relate to one another in sexual activity. I belong to two active TV-TS groups, and I have never heard anyone openly mention their desire to surrender or dominate; to have men or women as their personal sex partners, or to caress or be caressed in any particular way. That just doesn't seem to be the interest level of the groups.

There are already many other forums for expression of these special interests. Some are publications which most of us have read. Some exist as clubs in some parts of the country. But, these forums are not intended to serve the broad spectrum of TV-TS educational or social needs, such as you find in most TV groups like Emerald City, and in **Tapestry**.

Priscilla's letter suggests that she is not finding peer group support helpful because she cannot share her submissive thoughts with other males. I used to feel that way, too. But, my own experience indicates to me that you might find it worthwhile to explore that as a question, instead of a conclusion.

Not disputing her thought that an association of heterosexual, submissive TV's might be helpful to some of us, I would like to tell her what I have gained from participating in Emerald City and another social-educational group in Seattle.

I, too, used to be embarrassed and afraid to admit to any other man that I wanted to feel and look feminine part of the time. But, in these groups, I watched other men attend the meetings dressed as I wished I might. Gradually, I found I could attend with some, then all, feminine attire and make-up. I came to realize that I no longer had to pay a dominatrix for "permission" to look like and behave like a woman. Thanks to my experiences in the group, I feel now that I can make that change because I want to.

I too, had felt that I could never admit to a man that being forcefully feminized by a woman is a wonderful fantasy of mine. Now I have found individual friends from those groups with whom I **can** discuss my fantasies and theirs, without fear of ridicule.

My point in relating this is that **Tapestry** and TV-TS groups can have a profoundly uplifting effect on all of us, no matter what our desires are in one-to-one relationships. I believe that neither the groups nor **Tapestry** could be supportive to so many if they shifted the emphasis to the variety of our individual needs, instead of building on those which we have in common.

It is because these groups and **Tapestry** do serve a wide range of interests that they reach more people. I think that helps us find others at least somewhat like ourselves who can become friends.

I wish Priscilla the best and admire her courage in "bucking the stream" with her letter to **Tapestry**.

-- Allison Marsh (WA)

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Dear Editor,

lone*ly (-le) adj. -li*er, -li*est
1. alone; solitary 2. standing apart from others of its kind; isolated 3. unhappy at being alone; 4. longing for friends, company, etc.

Do any of us really understand the scope of the problems our sisters face all over the world? How do we measure the depth and breadth of the problem? Can any of us remember the times of complete isolation we once endured? Can you see the faces of unknown sisters who are alone in the world?

The answer is "yes"! Yes, we can see the faces in old photos of ourselves and our friends; photos showing a lone individual, usually without a smile, self-portraits taken in rooms with a bed and a chain-lock on the door... a door with rates and rules clearly posted. I must have fifty of these photographs sent with letters from girls as far away as Australia and Sweden. Most of these letters came after a copy of the TAPESTRY fell into the hands of someone who desperately needed to know they were not alone in the world.

Those of us who are members of clubs, have friends all over the country and attend national functions often forget how it used to be. We have forgotten the isolation of our early years. We have forgotten the crying in a motel room, dressed and alone.

These are just some of the thoughts that ran through my mind after I received a recent mailing from the IFGE seeking donations. I must have stared out the window for some time...remembering...thinking of how it used to be. It took a moment to dig into my purse and come up with an old, wrinkled twenty dollar bill I had stashed away for an emergency. It wasn't much when I consider how much I spent on a new dress last week...but it was something. If all of us would just send "something" and that "something" made it possible to help just one girl...gave hope to just one person who was alone...(?)

-- Catherine Lynn Andrews (OH)

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Dear Editor,

The following is a letter on why I think I have a need to crossdress.

We are familiar with these cliche remarks: "This is a man's world...", and "Women have it easy...". Still, I find myself asking, "Why do I have a deep-rooted desire to crossdress as a woman?". The answer, I believe, is relatively simple, and dates back to the creation of man. The Book of Genesis tells of how God formed man from dust, and then later thought it improper that he should be alone. Placing Adam into a deep sleep, he formed woman from one of his ribs. Adam's response to this was, "She is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man".

"She was taken out of man!". If this statement is true, then were we, as men, not intersexed at some point in time? This, I think, would explain why some women suffer from penis envy, while many transsexuals find it unbearable to live out their lives in the body of a man. Males and females aren't two different genders. They're one and the same.

Crossdressing, then, is a form of expression by which we reach out to find our feminine or masculine selves, taken from us so long ago. Even the Holy Sacrament of marriage is nothing more than a due process by which male and female reunite as one individual, or entity.

Isn't it amazing, as well, that Adam's shame should bare itself in his nakedness? There are those who think it shameful to be seen in the House of God unless dressed in a three-piece suit. However, the truth be known, God could care less about your wardrobe, just as with Adam's nakedness in the Garden of Eden. Which leads me to this very important point: Why should we, then, as crossdressers, allow others to intimidate us about our feminine apparel, when God knows of our attempts to find our feminine selves?

-- Comfort G. (WA)

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Response to Cynthia Howard's letter in #56:

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to Cynthia H.'s letter in issue #56, and in particular, to the Gender Rights Amendment. This is something that is extremely needed. I feel something like this would help greatly to bring true focus to who we are and are not. I also like the idea of everyone in the gender community coming together and belonging to something that would identify us, and cause potential harassers to think twice before discriminating against us.

Being a transsexual here in southeastern Washington is at times quite rough. I am presently in transition, and because I am changing in appearance, I often get a lot of harassment. I have been denied employment, I have been spit upon, ridiculed, called "homosexual", "queer", "fag", had my life threatened, and have been threatened with bodily harm. It is frustrating to have, say, an appointment to be at, and end up being late because a transit coach operator deliberately did not stop at the bus stop to pick you up. I tell you, now I know what it must have felt like to be black in this nation fifty years ago.

Something else I find amazing is the fact that many people, upon hearing that I am a transsexual, respond with, "What's that?" or, "Oh yeah, I've talked to a few people who are homosexuals".

There are also problems within the community that cause frustration. For example, there are transsexuals that have trouble dealing with transvestites. These TS's claim that transvestites can occasionally put on a skirt and heels for a good ole night on the town, and be their male selves again in the morning, no damage done. On the other hand, the transsexual's lifestyle goes on 24 hours a day, people know who they are, and the TS must deal with the potentially negative consequences of this fact continuously. In other words, these TS's resent the fact that transvestites can enjoy themselves without paying a price.

I have also noticed that after transsexuals have completed their change, they tend to leave their former support organizations behind along with their former existence, choosing to live harassment-free lives out of the shadow of their past (they usually move and start over). I find this denial on their part very sad.

-- Jennifer M. (WA)

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Youth Research Program:

Dear Editor,

Approximately eighteen months have passed since I first announced my interest in reaching out to teenagers who crossdress. At that time, I wrote to a great number of professionals asking for referrals, and my request for contacts was published in **Tapestry** as well.

Since that beginning, I have had meaningful and ongoing exchanges with eighteen young men who dress. I have met several, and correspond and talk by phone with most of them still. The greatest number of these referrals came from within our community and not from the professionals, even though I receive a great number of communications from a number of psychiatrists and psychologists, all with a mixture of reactions to this project.

A study of this kind requires much

larger numbers and much, much more time. It seems that I will need to appeal to my peers in the professional segments a good deal more for their acceptance and cooperation. But I hope that with this letter, I may be able to remind our community of this work and its importance, and that once again, others will be referred to me.

I appeal to my own, to remember me in this work, to be alert to its importance, and to continue to put me in contact with any male youth age 13 to 19 who will be comfortable exchanging with me. This particular group is very difficult to sample, and to maintain a relationship with, I do admit, but the need to work with these young people is ever important, so as to add to our knowledge of ourselves and what we think, feel and do in our own lives.

Thank you for your help in this effort.

Sheila Kirk
c/o P.O. Box 3214
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

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Dear Editor,

I've been a life-long TV and have gone through all the ups and downs, doubts and questions. But, I am what I am, a tried and true TV. It's as much a part of me as the color of my hair. It makes me what I am, and I'm sorry to say that a lot of that has to be kept buried in order for me to be able to practice my profession, and because of where I live (I'm a farmer in SW Nebraska). To say that there is little acceptance out here is an understatement - actually, there is NONE. My closest major city is Denver, Colorado, and that's 300 miles away. To my knowledge, at this time, there is no organization there where I can be myself with others like me. (I am waiting to hear if a Tri-Ess chapter has been formed - I sure hope so!) So, for the time being, I will simply have to continue as I have been doing. But at least now, I'll have your magazine for company.

-- Melisa Jean H. (NE)

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Dear Editor,

My name is "Lolita Pearle" and I'm a transvestite.

My heart nearly stopped when I saw your address in the new Kinsey Book. I knew that transvestite/crossdressing groups existed, but I had no idea how to get in touch with one. One quick question - is the Tiffany Club mentioned in the Kinsey Book the same one mentioned in the book Transformations? That book is a beautiful piece of work. Those people in there are just like me! I've never met any of them, but I can personally identify with them all. Also, the Fantasia Fair is something that I would absolutely love to attend! I've always wanted to do something like that. Anyway, I never have made contact with any TV group before, and no one else but me knows about my crossdressing. It is very hard being a TV and not being able to tell anyone else in the whole world about it. I dress up secretly, hide everything, and have had only myself to judge how feminine and ladylike I can become.

Now, my whole transvestite life could be about to change, and Lolita Pearle may finally get a chance to come out. I never had any outlet for my hidden feminine personality, and I hope that will change. I'll tell you a little about myself.

I've been a transvestite for about six years, but only in the last two and a half have I really gone full-tilt at it. I went from just partially dressing, to having full feminine outfits. Before then, I didn't know if I wanted to try and stop my dressing, or continue. I was afraid of it. Then I realized that I couldn't stop even if I wanted to, so I went ahead and embraced transvestism as an unchangeable part of my life. The last two years have seen me expand my beautiful wardrobe and my skill in crossdressing. I took my femme name to identify this new and distinct part of me. I really am amazed at how quickly I grew to love transforming myself into a woman, and how much I enjoy the pleasure of being feminine. I have no other source of pleasure like it, it's near ecstasy. I love to wear beautiful dresses especially, and all of the necessary ladies' accessories. My fashion preference is a little outdated, I like 1940's and 1950's styles, but those are to me the prettiest clothes ever made. Yes, I know that ladies don't dress that way today, but I don't care, and I absolutely love to. Old 40's and 50's Vogue magazines sold me on that look. I've got other daytime-type dresses, and more up-to-date styles as well, so I don't always look like a 1940's movie starlet. I actually enjoy crossdressing so much, that I hate to undress.

The mere two hours or less a week that I can sneak in at home limit me a great deal, and I'd like more time to work on feminine behavior and mannerisms. I don't think I'm good enough yet to be able to pass in public. I haven't even tried going out yet. Perhaps, through a club, I can learn to be more like a woman when dressed, both in action and appearance.

-- Lolita Abigaile Pearle (FL)

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Dear Editor,

I don't know if I am a transsexual or a TV, but I do know that I have enjoyed dressing for all of my adult life. I have in my possession two editions of your journal, and would like to make some comments. I wish people would be a little more factual and precise when they write articles, instead of being so vague. And please try to eliminate all the false paranoia from the articles. I am tired of reading that 10,000 people stopped to peek at a particular TV as that TV walked by, that every one is always staring at them, that they don't want to be seen or exposed. It is more than likely that no one notices them, and that this is all in their mind. They say this, and later they contradict themselves by stating that they want to be seen by everyone in the world. Crazy! The articles should simply stick with the facts.

Also, I noticed that some of the articles in your magazine are written like a little child's story. No doubt some of these people are disturbed, and make up these stories, writing down and sending you their hallucinations. But I do feel that at least some of these people are normal, and if that's the case, please edit the "sickness" out

of the articles, and include only the facts. In my opinion, you should deal more with the following subjects: problems that can occur on the job for people like us, the huge financial burden involved in becoming a woman, and why not do some follow-up stories on people who have had SRS? None of this "I had my surgery, and now life is great" type of story, but something realistic about the new problems that must inevitably arise after SRS.

I reiterate, please become more factual and realistic, while continuing to be informative to the TV/TS community.

-- Liz (NYC)

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Dear Editor,

Our "Coming Together" convention was grand, and I want to express a special thanks to you and all the others who worked so hard to make it happen. It was Cheryl's first major outing (she just came out in January!), and it was beautiful. At 50, I was beginning to look backwards towards the past and its memories - a depressing trend. But now I have a beautiful reason to look forward - to the next event, to the rest of my life, to seeing you again. I get teary-eyed very easily when I think about this - like now! Expressing Cheryl makes me feel like for the very first time ever, I'm ALL there, and the emotions associated with that feeling are intense. The warmth and understanding that I experienced at "Coming Together" will always stay with me, and I can say with all sincerity, "I love all of you". See you at "Be All"!

-- Cheryl D. (NY)

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Dear Editor,

I have waited a long time to find an organization such as yours, and I am very happy to finally be a member of IFGE. I am looking forward to receiving the next Tapestry. But I do have one small problem - you see, I am totally blind, and have found it to be most difficult to find someone who is open minded enough to read your fine material to me. When I finally did find such a person, I had to pay the going rate of thirty dollars to get the Tapestry read to me. I find this to be a most expensive endeavor. Therefore, as I stated on my form, I would like to set up a cassette publishing company to help the blind, and also anyone else who finds it hard to read.

I also hope someday to be able to contribute my work to your fine organization, since I'd like to be able to help others in my position. For so many years of my life, I felt as though I were wacko, totally lost. Of course, now I know better, and just a little over a year and a half ago, I made the choice to come out of my closet entirely. I have been living as a female ever since, and, needless to say, I am **very happy as Mishell!** Living in a small, backwoods town in Montana, this has been most difficult. Nonetheless, I am my own person who makes my own choices, and I am NOT wacko or crazy! But being totally blind, I was unaware of any help that might be available to me, so I had no one to talk with openly. Being blind is limiting enough, but being blind and in a situation like I was in, is insufferable - This must change!

Thank you for your time and help in this matter.

-- Mishell Lynn W. (MT)

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Mini-Editorial: Consciousness Raising

Dear Editor,

"All women act like fools. They're used to it and they don't mind it, so you shouldn't, either." "...Women don't even know what the word 'logic' means."

This was said during a voice lesson by a crossdresser to emphasize the difference between men's and women's behavior. Exaggerating such stereotypes seems normal at crossdressing meetings. "As soon as you put on a dress, you lose the ability to think." Most women I know would be upset by such statements, and would never make them themselves.

I am worried that when we speak as above, many crossdressers unconsciously accept that as reality. They feel they have to conform to it to pass as women, and have to treat women that way to pass as men.

Many of us speak in such stereotypes in the same way we tell minority jokes, without realizing how damaging they are. Most women today are striving to escape them. So should we. We can't escape if we pass it off by saying, "it's just the way people talk and doesn't mean anything". Such talk is what creates reality.

Encouraging crossdressers to feel brainless, worthless, and helpless is obviously negative, yet many of my friends at crossdressing meetings make such references, often in "jest". If they also feel that to be men, they are forced to be dominant, untouchable, and without emotion, it's not surprising that they oscillate back and forth without being happy for long in either role.

We need encouragement to get in touch with our feelings, emotions and sensitivity, and to recognize this as being a positive experience for both genders. Women are better at it, and we can learn from them. Instead of talking about what we have to lose to pass as women, let's talk about the emotion and sensitivity that we have to gain. We need to experience what it is about the opposite role that makes us feel good about ourselves, to bring out more of the good stuff, and to encourage it in others.

Stereotypes, in contrast, tend to dwell on what you can't or shouldn't do. Conventional gender roles are restrictive and oppressive. Most crossdressers accept these roles without question. They try to escape from one oppressive role by overemphasizing the other. They may be fifty years old, but they dream of becoming "girls".

Decades ago, women began to realize that calling a secretary "girl" was done for the same reason as calling a black man "boy". For those of you who don't know it yet, most people don't do that anymore.

Every time we let negative, derogatory talk go by without calling attention to it, we hurt and trap ourselves. I think it's better to try to free ourselves, and to support the opposite gender as they, like us, try to become more free and more whole.

-- Ronda S. (CA)

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Dear Editor,

I just finished reading a short novel by the name "Give Them Stones", which depicts the life of a woman, probably now in her 60's, living in Northern Ireland. It's not a pretty life. However, as I reflected on my own life as I lead it today, I concluded that I, a transsexual woman, am, despite my life in "affluent" America, nevertheless leading a very similar life to that of the main character in this novel. Further, I thought, my life is indeed, that of most women - it is not the glittery, glitzy life of a heroine of a Jackie Collins novel, or even of the heroine of a Cosmo short story. It is instead, just an ordinary "woman's" life - and maybe your readers should hear about that kind of life before they embark on all kinds of changes to achieve the life of a "woman".

I got up today at 5:30 am, as I do most mornings, even though today was Saturday. I made a cup of coffee for myself, then decided this morning I would make "fry bread" for my man. He is an American Indian, and likes fry bread in the morning with his coffee. It took me about half an hour, but I did it without waking him, so he could wake up to the smell of fresh coffee and bread, which he did, and was pleased. Ah - success.

He owns two cars, neither of which works very well. So today, he left right after breakfast to get one of them working for this week. He is in construction, and has been laid off for three weeks, so money is kind of tight for us (I work, too, but so far have not been paid beyond my expenses). Because of this, he has to fix his cars and we can't get new ones.

I cleaned up from breakfast, had another cup of coffee, called one of my dear friends (she lives in another town, which means I have to call on Saturday so the rates are cheap), but we could talk only for five minutes, since her husband needed the phone to make some business calls. Then, I took my shower, which took a while (lots of hair to get rid of in unwanted places), then had to curl my hair (that takes a while, too, you know), get dressed, etc.

Call from my ex. Bitching at me. I asked a simple favor of her - mailing me a letter that had been sent to the wrong address. Ex couldn't do it. This is the same ex that got over a million-dollar settlement from me when we were divorced, and stuck all that in the bank. I meanwhile, live almost in poverty. Then I vacuumed, dusted, and straightened up the house. We have two bedrooms, and a large living room, so it is quite a job.

I bought a tape recorder the other day. It doesn't work. So I have to drive 10 miles back to the store, assuming Bob (not his real name) fixes one of the cars, to turn it back in. Bob tried to do it for me yesterday, but couldn't get anywhere with the store clerk. Then, they are having a sale at Penney's, which I would like to get to today - I desperately need some new underwear - mine is over two years old, and not in good shape.

Bob wants to go dancing tonight. That's fun, and I love it, but it means I'll have to get all dressed up tonight, and it's 95 degrees out already (you ever try dancing with pantyhose on in 95 degree weather... FAST dancing?). And when he comes home today, he will be upset about the car, I know, and will need me to take care of him, and make him feel good.

I work 10 hours a day, three days a week. Then an additional day is spent on electrolysis, hairdresser, manicurist, and/or therapist. Usually, a fifth day is spent on my second job and/or a meeting I need to go to for my first job. Sunday is spent at church where I am lay pastor, then with Bob or his grandchildren. Usually cooking for everyone, of course.

Well, folks, that is my life. I wouldn't really have it any other way. I do love it. But you know, it would be sort of nice to have a glamorous lunch somewhere and meet some fabulously rich man to just take me out to his yacht, etc. Back in my "playing at being a woman" days, I have occasionally met reasonably well-off men who would at least pay the bill once in a while for a nice lunch or dinner. But they turned out to be jerks. The man I've got "ain't got no money", but he is mine, and I am his, and he is clearly the He in this family, while I am the She.

So, I guess what I am really saying is, if you are going to "become" a woman, you had better be prepared for what being a woman is really all about. It's a whole lot of work, a lot of caring for, and taking care of a lot of other people. Very little time or rewards for yourself, and almost certainly an existence at, or near poverty level - no matter who or what you were before. Think about it.

-- Gessica T. (CA)

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Dear Editor,

I'm a new subscriber to Tapestry. I am very much in the closet, and have to stay there for financial and personal reasons. My original intent in subscribing was to get the names and addresses of kindred souls for the sake of correspondence. But I got very involved in reading the journal. I think that it is very well written, it deals with many relevant issues, and contains many informative articles.

I wish I didn't have the desire to "dress up", but I certainly wouldn't take a pill to make the desire go away. This makes me think of the story of the little boy who was constantly beating on his sister. His parents were so concerned, that they took him to a doctor, who decided to try hypnosis in an effort to cure him. The treatment did cure him from beating his sister, but then he started pulling out his hair in handfuls.

Crossdressing is a harmless affliction, but if people could be cured, it might turn them into something worse, such as a drunk or a drug abuser.

-- Tammy (MT)

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Dear Editor,

I heard Mariette Pathy Allen (author of 'Transformations') speaking on National Public Radio, and I got your address from there. I've been living full-time (socially, vocationally, etc.) as a woman for many years, basically all my life since I left home at eighteen (before that, naturally, it was not as easy). I've been on hormones for years, worked as a secretary, taught classes to adults, done elderly care and childcare/housekeeping jobs.

I've thought of myself as a transsexual who's never had enough money to get the surgery. But, after listening to the program I started wondering where I fit between pre-op transsexual and perhaps transgenderist. I've been both influenced by the feminist movement, and I've also felt its restrictions. Sometimes, what may be considered an oppressive or undesired part of femininity has been to me something I desired in my life, as I got some rather mixed approval/disapproval messages about my femininity while growing up. At this point, I'd just like to experience all the facets of my femininity, whether politically correct or not.

-- Cynthia (CA)

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Dear Editor,

I just finished my application for IFGE and could not just drop it in an envelope with a check and forget about it. I felt compelled to enclose a note about myself, as well as to express my feelings for you and the organizations I have recently become involved with.

I joined Tri-Ess a year ago, at the urging of my wife. We both were overwhelmed by the supportive, intelligent, loving group of people we met there. Our chapter is Alpha Zeta in Phoenix, AZ. Through the chapter members, we met others who were members of 'A Rose'. More kindness, openness, support. Through Tapestry we have learned of other people, events and groups like this. We don't feel alone as much anymore.

We both have many questions about who we are, where we are going, and what the future holds for us. So far, the issues of Tapestry have, with their frankness, provided some answers. The editorials, letters, and articles have challenged and informed us, and given us a group identity.

We know how difficult it is to put together such a large publication and help lead such a diverse group of people and organizations. We support your efforts, and wish you success. As we grow stronger and bolder, we will become more able to help you and others like ourselves. We look forward to that day.

For now, we are learning more about our new friends and activities. There is so much to learn (thank goodness, most of it fun). There are many firsts as well. Thanks to publications such as Tapestry and people of courage such as yourself and your staff, our fears have been reduced, and our hopes much higher.

-- Carol and Dollie M. (AZ)

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POET'S CORNER

[Reprinted from the 'Femme Mirror', Issue 23, published by the Society for the Second Self, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.]

A Letter To Salman
by Chris Howey

You hide, Salman:
Because you are under attack
from a rasping pulse of people.
Because your thoughts, your feelings,
have been deemed too different and
too offensive to be allowed to exist.
Because you know if you went in
public, you might certainly be
destroyed, like one of your pages
wadded up and tossed in a
curb side bonfire.
They kill you, they kill your ideas,
Salman, your "satanic verses."

We, too, hide.
We know the fear of discover, the
metallic taste of fear, of confrontation
with those who will not find a
microscopic fold in their brain where
our reality can live in peace.
We hide because in the open, we may be
torched by the howling crowds,
burn magnesium-bright,
and disappear.
But we are not here to disappear.
We are here to live.

So Salman, your words ring true.
Your words when you say,
'Freedom is always taken; it is never
given.'
Yes, there is a price.
A price some of us are ready to pay.
It is our time to say that we
are entitled to freedom.
And we face the howling crowd
with a truth simple as a new leaf:
We exist, and this is how we are.

The consequences? Let them come.
We cannot plot and plan beyond this
point.
As you say, Salman,
'Our lives teach us who we are.'

And we are ready to learn.

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DESIRE FOR THE DIMINUTIVE
by Suzanne Bishop

I long to be a poetess, long-haired and oracular,
or an aviatrix, short-haired, pert and bold.

I'd love to be the heroine of a Gothic melodrama,
or a waitress pouring coffee in a roadside diner.

I long for the diminutive to be applicable to me,
the "ess", the "ix", the "ine" that signal femininity.

Agreed, those usages are old-fashioned, sexist, out-of-date,
and much to be condemned. It's the reality behind them
that I would possess–
the differences, vital differences, between a woman and a man.

It's life-creating and life-sustaining that I long to be,
a well, a moon, a flowering vine, fruitful, fecund, free
of the madness of testosterone and its wild `demands.

I'm a circle, not a line; I dance, I do not march.

I should be rapt in the female rhythm that nurtures and preserves,
a captive of life's cycle, swayed by hidden tides,
giving and receiving, needing to succor need, always undiminished.

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EXCEPTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
by Nikki B.

Hello, is there anyone out there
Is there anyone else out there like me
In this world of misunderstanding and scold
It's alright, I'm told

Slowly I'm peeking out the door
Putting one foot gently on the floor
Testing the waters for warmth and reception
Slowly learning, I'm not a lonely exception
I mean exceptional
Not deviant or detrimental
Altho emotionally experimental

To have your cake and eat it too
Is something that we truly get to do
With both perspectives that our heart has hold
It's an exceptional gift that we own

But it's so confusing, which is truly my home
With the many faces my heart has hold
Crying from listening to a sad song
Or just one of the guys
Now both are twice as strong

Passing between truth and disguise
Each becomes the other
When I change to the other's eyes
A parallel universe with the doors open wide
Slowly testing the perspective of life on the other side

But am I peeking out of the door
Or am I peeking out of the door
Or am I looking into a room for more
For truth, beyond the mores
An exceptional perspective
That I want more and more

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RESURRECTION
by K.F.M. Kellis

are we there yet? are we there?
i have never known such impatience
that is a lie
i have been impatient to get there all my life
life-type cast-stifling role - just can't seem
to get into this male thing.
where is my agent?
i've come so far and yet i see my first steps
only days old
transition: the state of being in two places at once and not
really being anywhere at all
trans: across, beyond
how exciting, beyond what?
myself? i doubt it
oh i get it, a word of convenience for those who are not
affected by being beyond anything, as in
it's beyond me bob, i don't get it
well i got it, it's got me more than some
transom: the horizontal crossbar
of a gallows or cross
constantinople calls
and i have ears
constantinople calls and i only have ears

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The Ultimate Choice
by Linda Anne Landess

Behold, for I am Death,
a destroyer of families, and
a harbinger of new life.

Tarry not, ye who would know
me, lest ye be forever changed.

For man that is born of woman,
only a few may know both sides
of life.

Whether to be a daughter of the
heavens, a winsome flower, gentle,
and soft of voice, a sensitive giver
of life, in tune with the earth, or,
alternately, to be her true foil, a
man among men, self-assured,
a protector, a noble knight
who would fight to the death.

The choice is yours! It is our legacy.
The chalice is in your hand. Have
you the courage to drink of the
waters of truth?

[The following discussion was edited from the presentation made by Wendy Parker during the 1990 'Coming Together - Working Together' convention. The presentation was designed to compliment and lead into Merissa Lynn's workshop 'Symbiotic Synergism with the Women's Movement and the Gay & Lesbian Community' - the transcript of which was published in Tapestry Issue #56.]

THE GENDER COMMUNITY: WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE NINETIES?

A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION

By Wendy Parker (CA-0390)

INTRODUCTION

I would like to discuss the gender community and its goals for the future. My hope is to provoke lively discussion by asking questions such as: "Are we really a community?", "Are we statistically insignificant, or are we an invisible political force?"

First we need to recognize that the gender community is a distinct minority with a specific agenda which encompasses a broad range of personal goals along the gender rainbow. My intention is to discuss not why we exist, but that we do exist. As a group with common interests, we need to ask ourselves, "Where are we headed as a recognizable community?"

MINORITY ISSUES IN RECENT HISTORY

We see the successes of other minorities in our society which serve as inspiration for us all. Interestingly, minority issues seem to capture public imagination in successive decades. For example, the issue of racial equality and civil rights of the sixties gave way to women's liberation and the women's movement in the seventies. In the eighties, a public awareness was created regarding the gay liberation movement and issues of fair treatment and rights for homosexuals. Traditionally, once society has formally acknowledged some inequality, it is at least a start toward recognition of the existence of the minority itself. Having dealt with issues of minorities based on race in the sixties, sex in the seventies, and sexual preference in the eighties, the next obvious step is to address issues based on gender preference in the nineties.

Wendy Parker
Coming Together Convention' April 1990

We have already seen the popularization of this subject on various television talk shows, in newspapers, magazines, and numerous films and plays (albeit with some overtones of exploitation and sensationalism). Only very recently has public awareness been shaken to even acknowledge the very existence of ourselves as an entity.

THE "MIDDLE GENDER" IN HISTORY

Most people see gender variance as a recent phenomenon. But, in fact, the issue of gender shift has its origins in earliest written history. The serious student of social anthropology will find numerous examples of diverse gender options dating back to prehistoric times. It is certainly well documented Among the North American Indians, Polynesian and Oriental cultures, Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations. Anthropologically, the phenomenon is mentioned throughout the last five thousand years of civilization.

In order to know where we're going in the nineties, we

must first look at where we've been. A brief history of the gender community surprisingly does not suddenly start with Christine Jorgensen in the 1950's, but starts many thousands of years ago. The tradition of this "middle" gender of the berdache, shaman, medicine man, castrati, and clergy exists from many various cultures and religions. The feminizing of males from castration as a form of subjugating captive prisoners or legally decreed punishment for rapists, in particular, is well documented going back to 4000 B.C. in Egypt and ancient Persia. It continued up through classic Greek and Roman times, when some men chose to openly live as women. History tells us, in the case of the castrati of the 17th and 18th centuries, that families willingly offered up their sons for the good of the church or for financial security. Religious motivations prompted the clergy to create castrati choirs and celibate priests.

Whether it was done willingly or unwillingly, for political or legal reasons, as punishment or voluntarily, people who have shifted gender comprise part of our historical legacy. The existence of a "middle" gender or varying gender preference has been in existence for as long as human beings have documented their history.

WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE 1990'S?

The fact that we are all here today is testament to the fact that we do exist as a group in whatever numbers one might care to debate. We may be extremely small in number or perhaps a vast, silent multitude. In either case, one thing is very clear: The fear, isolation, hiding in the closet, and self-loathing of recent years is not a viable alternative in a time where so many other social events of the last fifty years have actually led us here today.

Where we are going in the nineties depends largely on the recognition of a need for public awareness of us in our many forms and individual goals along the gender spectrum.

The key word toward advancing goals in our community is "involvement". This is a subject that Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Sister Mary Elizabeth, and others have promoted for years. Merissa and a small staff at IFGE along with a handful of other movers and shakers around the country have struggled to keep the spirit of involvement alive.

Most of you here today came to the realization at some point that your gender variance was more than just a passing fancy. You may have wrestled with this issue since you were five or ten, going purges, broken relationships, self-doubt, and depression. You probably know that it won't go away. To quote a popular broadway musical, "I am what I am!"

We shouldn't lapse into a false sense of complacency, thinking that society will somehow exclude us from the same forms of discrimination suffered by blacks, women, and gays.

Only recently, the issue was brought before Congress in the form of Senate Bill 933 and Senate Amendment 722 to the "Americans with Disabilities" Act. If you weren't aware of this by now, it lumped together TS's, TV's, and gays with child molesters, drug addicts, and sex offenders. The confusion that exists in the muddled thinking of small minded, unenlightened politicians confuses issues of free gender choice (which harms no one) with criminal elements of society that would violate someone else's civil rights. If an active campaign to educate the public is not made, we will pay the price for our complacency down the road.

The need for informed gender community involvement, networking, and outreaching has been catalyzed by the creation of the IFGE Congress of Representatives (which has never been more needed than it is today). In order to suppress seeds of possible bigotry and discrimination in the future, you have to become involved with the rights of all your brothers and sisters before you are locked out of your just rights in a democratic society. Senate Amendment 722 was snuck in at the last minute before with little debate. Unbeknownst to other Senators, it was sent on to the House of Representatives where a House version of the amendment was also passed. Upon learning of this situation, I and many others sent letters to our Representatives. I received elaborate, concerned and polite replies. When I mentioned this extremely important situation sisters in our community, I was surprised to find general apathy toward the whole matter. I would remind all of you of the words of Ben Franklin, "If we don't all hang together, we will certainly all hang separately."

One only has to look at the insidiously gradual discrimination against gays, Jews, and political dissenters in Nazi Germany and the complacency of most as neighbors turned their eyes to avoid seeing the truth. As friends and neighbors were rounded up, they were forced to wear pink triangles or Stars of David, and sent off to Nazi death camps. Bertrand Russell said, "Those who are unaware of history are doomed to repeat it,"; and political and social discrimination is very real today, even in a democratic society such as ours.

The time to make known our existence as a community is now. The time to state who we are is now.

The time to state our goals as a group is now. The time is now because gender issues are being catapulted into the limelight of public recognition. This has given us an opportunity which we cannot lose.

National and local talk shows have created some public awareness. Films such as "The World According to Garp", "Tootsie", "Yentl", and plays such as "M Butterfly" have stimulated public curiosity. Even Newsweek recently had an article about us. To lose this opportunity could place our community back into the dark ages.

SCHISMS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Goals of the nineties should include repairing, once and for all, the divisive schism of mistrust and discomfort that exists among several groups that have essentially the goals; goals of economic freedom and choice of lifestyles. These groups are the gay and Lesbian community, the cross-dressing community, and the transsexual community. There has been an "uneasy alliance" that has traditionally existed between these groups. The TS resented the TV for not being as public with their desired expression of femininity and not experiencing the social ostracism and job discrimination that a TS suffers, sometimes finding herself in a newly created economic "pink ghetto". On the other hand, strictly heterosexual TV groups have been exclusive and discriminatory towards gay and bisexual TV's, and suspicious of TS's. Many in the gay community have felt that their lifestyles and goals were entirely different from those of the gender community. Having sorted out gender preference long ago and having worked hard to overcome society's unjust discrimination by coalescing political power in the seventies and eighties, gays perhaps feel that the gender community is not their concern. They have only recently worked out some divisive differences within their own community, not the least of which has to do with some opposing goals of gay men and Lesbians.

A major goal of the nineties should be bringing together the visible "T" community with the invisible "T" community. Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us". There are two major problems here--apathetic detachment and dogmatic infighting.

There is a kind of malaise by many in this invisible community regarding active involvement in the gender community. The social crossdresser will go out for a weekend adventure in the safe haven of a social club, perhaps quietly resentful of the almost certain ridicule of the general public, but too fearful or unconcerned to do anything to change those attitudes. With this apathetic attitude so prevalent, the question I pose today is: **Does the community we so casually refer to even exist, or is it merely wishful thinking on our part? Are we just a collection of individuals focusing on our own selfish goals, or do we have a larger altruistic agenda?**

Then of course there is the question of bringing together the visible community, with all its petty bickering and divisive philosophic posturing. How can we hope to educate the general public with so much energy wasted on infighting among splinter groups? The public regards us with a good deal of suspicion based on archaic stereotypes promoted by media, mistrust, and misinformation.

How will we reach great numbers of unhappy, isolated people making their own lonely discovery of true gender expression? Without access to support groups or knowledge of educated professionals, many are so consumed by guilt or shame they begin to consider suicide as a serious alternative, especially among teenagers. In 1989, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services task force on youth suicide estimated that Gay teenagers may comprise as much as 30% of the total number of youth suicides. I feel that gender related issues are often lumped in with this figure.

Don't we have an obligation to those people as well as ourselves?

The conflict that exists among various groups leads to lots of silly finger pointing in an "US vs THEM" attitude. IFGE is a solution for the 90's in that it is trying to find a common ground among gays, crossdressers, and transsexuals to present a united front on issues of mutual concern.

One such example of polarizing and ideological semantic time wasters is the "label" game. One gender group has recently complained that IFGE couldn't speak for the transsexual because it was run by, quote, "male crossdressers". This kind of short-sighted ignorance overlooks one basic built-in irony. "Male crossdressers" will be visible a lot longer than TS's because it is the TS's' main goal to be absorbed into society and disappear, often attempting to erase all previous history.

In either case, we need to help each other and it is precisely this kind of dissention that impedes helping others in coming out. Who is there to help and offer peer group support? Outside of the need for the professional counseling community, there is also a need in the 90's to address issues related to the legal rights of the community and to work to erase a public stigma concerning this particular "mode of expression". We should expect that most post-op TS's will

eventually disappear from our ranks because of their intended split with the past. Therefore, the "male crossdresser" will naturally fall into long-term leadership positions except for the few brave post-op souls who would choose to remain visible and committed to common long-range goals of the community.

If we are to become a community, we have to be a group of caring individuals working toward a common goal. What we have now could be more closely described as a collection of cliques, factions, and personality cults. A goal in the nineties is to focus all that energy to eliminate prejudice and ignorance in the general population.

CO-OPERATION AND PRIDE

The whole point of my talk today is that we have to work together in the nineties. Our numbers are proportionately small, so we can't afford indifference on this matter. I maintain that there is a common agenda and unity should be one of the answers to the question: **"Where are we going in the next decade?"** Whether we choose to live full-time as a TG, achieve a personal goal of surgery as a TS, or desire to express our femininity in weekend social gatherings as a TV, it is clear that we want to be able to express who and what we are without obsequious hand-wringing apologies to society. The bottom line is that we need to recognize a need for being proud of who we are.

In order to know where we are going in the next decade, I think we should attempt an answer to the following question: **"What is it that we as a group do to evoke such a violent reaction in society?"** It's always been curious to me that people who merely choose to express themselves without any harm to others seem to threaten so many people. The less aware, the unenlightened, and the uninformed in our society are upset by our mere existence and seem to find a more understanding attitude toward violent convicted criminals than to us. The Puritan yoke of our legacy has historically allowed us to be more tolerant in issues of violence than sex. You can see it in the movie codes that place more importance on sex than random violence.

The mere existence of Senate Amendment 722 labels all of us as outcasts and misfits. We have become the modern day equivalent of biblical leper colonies. To test this observation, just ask yourself, **"What would it take for my family to disown or ignore me?"** You see this rejection in many cases of gender shifting. Ironically, in unconditional love, you want a person to become all they can be; to stretch and grow as a human being, not limit their happiness. However, the macho and frail male egos in our society might think that just being near us would cause this phenomenon to rub off on them. I suggest to all bigots, that options in life are limitless and the possibility of gender expression regardless of sex is inherent in everybody. Medical science can certainly prove that there are male and female attributes in both sexes and the quest to explore our other side is simply a goal of personal growth and a total integration of the complete self. The Anima/Animus, Yin/Yang theories of life are as old as history itself, but as Albert Einstein once mentioned, "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."

Over the years, I have observed a destructive and vicious cycle of distrust and contempt between the different segments of our community regarding the variety of lifestyles. Bickering and infighting among various TV, TS, and gay groups have caused unnecessary discord and hurt feelings. It has even gone so far as to cause the dissolution of valuable networking groups.

Starting anywhere you like along the cycle of mistrust, it is a cycle that feeds on itself. Mistrust breeds fear. Fear is born from ignorance. For example, a gay male might mistrust straight TV's because he may feel that TV's harbor a basically anti-homosexual feeling. Homophobia does permeate our society.

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF HOMOPHOBIA IN THE 90'S

This country is extremely homophobic. There is an irrational obsession to partition all human life as gay or not gay. It is a kind of voyeuristic compulsion by society to assign a slot to everyone's personal sexual preferences as if it were their business in the first place. The whole subject of homophobia in America is insufferably tedious but, like it or not, this community will always be associated with traditional gay lifestyles as long as most people still feel that the only reason that we dress is to attract men. Outside of the obvious validation of femininity attention from males affords our own psyche, we know that is often not the specific intention. Nevertheless we continue to be thought of as "drag queens" by the less educated in society.

Part of the solution is to actively work with the gay community instead of shunning it. By joining forces, we will be better situated to set the record straight about the spectrum of lifestyle variations along the gender rainbow.

MISTRUST

Fear and ignorance together create a catalyst in society for violence. Herbert Spencer has said that there is a principle which cannot fail to keep man in

everlasting ignorance; and that is contempt prior to investigation. However, a cycle of mistrust pervades our community as well. Some heterosexual TVs mistrust gay or bisexual TVs because some say they hurt the cause by allowing society to lump all TVs in with gays (society not yet being able to recognize the difference between TVs, TGs, TSs, Gay males in drag and female impersonators). Some TVs mistrust TSs because they feel TSs have given up on their masculine side or secretly feel jealous of the TS's intense commitment toward femininity. TSs sometimes have nothing to do with gays or TVs because, after surgery, they just want to disappear into the crowd and do anything but stand out. Street queens and gay prostitutes in drag are usually ostracized from most gender groups. Theatrical female impersonators, in turn, are not thought as part of either socially aware gays or the gender community.

One popular "T" hangout in Los Angeles is the Queen Mary. I've noticed over the years that the bar crowd cluster themselves in the stratified society that I previously mentioned, based on sexual preference and personal tastes. Performing female impersonators don't talk to TVs and TVs huddle together away from the TSs, lest it be catching. The TSs don't consider themselves as gay men so they don't relate to either the TVs or the performers. The straight "Ozzie and Harriet" type couples out on a voyeuristic night on the town don't talk to anybody because, as we all know, you can catch AIDS from provocative discussions. Son and on and on. To me, this obvious stratification is reenacted in every gay bar in the country and is perfectly symbolic of the type of communication problem we face. This is another challenge of the 90's and beyond.

So, al in all, everybody mistrusts everybody just at the time of the greatest need to come together in understanding. Individually, we have no clout, but together, we do. Again, **"If you don't hand together, you will hang separately"**. The theme of the IFGE conventions has been "Coming Together". That, more than any other theme, should be our goal in the 90's.

DSM III STATUS

Another goal of the 90's should be working to change our DSM III status with the American Psychological Institute. This will affect future health benefits, housing, and job discrimination. The fact that we are lumped in with DSM III disorders may be our own fault due to apathy and if we're not part of the solution, then we're part of the problem.

One possible solution might be to align ourselves with a broader base in the women's movement by stating the obvious: **Is a man who does what a woman does, mentally ill?** By ridiculing men who wear women's clothes, it discriminates against women by implying that women's tastes and activities are a sure sign of mental illness. This should surely be seen as offensive by feminists.

It seems unfair that women who adopt traditional male ways by asserting themselves and working towards the acquisition of power, money, and status are envied. Women who dress "mannish" get more respect in business or are admired as fashion trend setters. They are not relegated to DSM II status of mental disorders. Our male dominated society sees it as desirable for women to mimic men, thus raising themselves up to a supposed "top position".

This self-flattery by men is an illusion. However, men who choose to mimic women's ways are seen as desirous of a lower rung on society's ladder and take a step down. Traditionally, men regard women as inferior. When a woman acts like a "lady" she is "belittling" herself, but then becomes more acceptable to men. Willingly relinquishing power is seen as mental instability. Men who desire a feeling of vulnerability and emotional sensitivity that their femme side affords them are ridiculed because it symbolizes a woman's "weakness". The obvious implication is that women and "womanly things" are only for weak or second class citizens and this association of the womanly arts with mental illness should be an affront to all concerned feminists crusading for equality.

The American Psychological Institute removed gays from DSM III's "mentally ill" status in 1975 and now it's time to remove gender prejudice. The reality is that men who do those "lowly things" that women do are not mentally ill; they are just getting in touch with the beautiful, nurturing quality that women enjoy.

By letting women, who comprise a 53% majority of the world population, become aware of this discrimination, we stand a better chance of acceptance. By allowing men to make fun of us, we are allowing men to make fun of femininity and thus contribute to putting women down. Feminists should resent the implication that "men's ways are better ways" since it devalues women.

If politicians thought for a minute that they were alienating women, they couldn't discount us as a minority of "nuts and flakes". We must say to politicians, the American Psychological Institute, and society, don't downgrade women's things and don't look down on femininity as inferior. The key is to get the women's movement on our side (Gloria are you listening?). If you allow politicians to do it to us, then by quiet acceptance, you allow them to do it to you and to

jeopardize your hard-earned rights. It's not an issue of sex, it's an issue of gender. Women can do what men do, but men can't do what women do. It's a tired old prejudice that I hope will fall by the wayside in the 90's. To change old attitudes, though, requires active participation on our part. Eternal vigilance may be the price of liberty, but the women's movement has taught us that power is not given away, it must be wrestled free.

Try to participate specifically by writing letters to politicians or volunteering to speak at colleges and political groups. A TV/TS speakers bureau should be part of every local gender organization.

I.F.G.E.

Back in 1846, Henry David Thoreau said, "Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes", but that same year on her return from a shopping spree, Mrs. Thoreau modified that by saying, "Beware of enterprises that require a matching handbag and accessories" (I'm kidding). 144 years later, IFGE is saying, "Beware of enterprises that discriminate about clothes!"

The assembly last year in San Francisco of the Congress of Representatives was an important first step in the recognition of working together and the need to get personally involved. Groups like IFGE work on a marginal financial basis and need all the active financial help and personal participation they can get. The same holds true for the Outreach Institute, J2CP, various gender clinics around the country, and the increasingly numerous local crossdressing groups. I feel that the local groups have an inherent responsibility to make themselves known and to volunteer to speak publicly at colleges, universities, and law enforcement agencies to disseminate the word that we are not a dangerous element to society as has been suggested by the United States Senate or Hollywood movies. Even though we are all aware of the limits of exposure because it may endanger our career, livelihoods, or relationships, there is a safe balance which can be maintained between a "need to know basis" and community involvement. The longer we choose to hide from society, the longer we lock ourselves in the closet (like a dog chasing its tail). The few who stop hiding must carry the banner of acceptance for the rest.

CD SOCIAL CLUBS

At the risk of creating a huge controversy, it has been suggested that there is no bigger closet in the world than a CD club. However, it is important for peer group validation and a safe outlet for gender preference. it is also a "hiding in the closet" cycle that feeds on itself. It's kind of like going to a play and seeing the actors perform the play backstage instead of in front of the curtain for the world audience to see. The downside of peer group and club support can be that it drives us further into the closet and might cause us to be even more fearful to interact with society. Instead, we should be getting out, making our case known to the public, and being proud of who we are.

Advancing our cause can be done in a discrete and quiet manner if one feels they have too much to lose by putting themselves on the line. Involvement can also be done in the form of financial support to any number of the aforementioned organizations. It can be done by writing letters to Congressmen. People in society tend to discount the importance of personally written letters to political representatives. However, letters do get read and they do get answered since this is often the only way representatives discover what their constituency is thinking.

The few letters that politicians get represent the tip of the iceberg. This is something that can easily be done without fear of revealing your personal lifestyle. Going to festive gender social events is all well and good as an important element of networking. However, this exclusion of the various elements in the community: TS, TV, gay, or B&D groups, points out our own intolerance toward understanding and brings out a kind of discrimination that exists in all of us. The willingness to promote secrecy from the rest of society almost certainly creates a kind of prison for all of us.

To illustrate this point, I quote the following short story based on an old legend dating from the Middle Ages. It's called "The Prisoner", by Emmett Fox.

THE PRISONER

There is an old legend of the Middle Ages that is very instructive. It seems that a citizen was arrested by one of the Barons and shut up in a dungeon in his castle. He was taken down dark stairs, down, down, down, by a ferocious-looking jailer who carried a great key a foot long. The door of a cell opened, and he was thrust into a dark hole. The door shut with a bang, and there he was.

He lay in that dark dungeon for twenty years. Each day the jailer would come, the big door would be opened with a great creaking and groaning, a pitcher of water and a loaf of bread would be thrust in and the door closed again.

Well, after twenty years, the prisoner decided that he could not stand it any longer. He wanted to die but he did not want to commit suicide, so he decided that the next day when the jailer came, he would attack

him. The jailer would then kill him in self defense, and thus his misery would be at an end. He thought he would examine the door carefully so as to be ready for tomorrow and, going over, he caught the handle and turned it. To his amazement the door opened, and upon investigation, he found that there was no lock upon it and never had been, and that for all those twenty years, he had not been locked in, except in belief.

At any time in that period he could have opened the door if only he had known it. He thought it was locked, but it was not. He groped along the corridor and felt his way upstairs. At the top of the stairs, two soldiers were chatting, and they made no attempt to stop him. He crossed the great yard without attracting attention. There was an armed guard on the drawbridge at the great gate, but he paid no attention to him, and he walked out a free man.

He went home unmolested and lived happily ever after. He could have done this any time through these long years since his arrest if he had known enough, but he did not. He was captive, not of stone or iron, but of false belief. He was not locked in; he only thought he was.

Of course this is only a legend, but it is an extremely instructive one. We are all living in some kind of prison, some of us in one kind, some in another; some in a prison of lack, some in a prison of remorse and resentment, some in a prison of blind unintelligent fear, some in a prison of sickness. But always the prison is in our thought and not in the nature of things.

THE WOMAN'S TOUCH: A NURTURING SPIRIT FOR A TROUBLED WORLD

Masculinity is changing in America and you don't have to put on a dress to be a nurturer--although it is an option. I feel in an altruistic sense that those of us who find a need toward personal gender expressions have an almost humanistic obligation to share ourselves with the society at large. For thousands of years, history has been written by men and this male dominated society has not exactly done a terrific job of handling the affairs of this planet.

I believe that the nurturing "humanistic" spirit of women has been the sole reason for the continuing existence of the human species. Their decision to carry a child to full term and the feminine, nurturing care for a child is the reason that people exist at all.

We find in history that women are the life givers and men are the life takers. I believe if an infant child was left up to the care of a man, half the population wouldn't exist. Our very confused and nervous world now can exterminate itself with the unprecedented swiftness of a nuclear bomb or the slow demise of a dying environment. This is due to a careless management and stewardship of the planet. We can now go out with a bang or a whimper. After ten thousand years of male dominated civilization, we should look toward that which is loving and nurturing in the feminine spirit for the very survival of the species. This might also allow people to get in touch with their emotions and stop fighting long enough to give into a softer and more loving side.

Men control the world and hold its future with an edgy trigger finger. Balanced on a delicate thread of ego, men fear losing their predominate power, even though it might be beneficial to their masculinity. (Consider the classic line from "Tootsie" in which Dustin Hoffman's character, Michael Dorsey, maintained that his experience as Dorothy had made him a better man.)

Not surprisingly, the only people in this country who ever seem to get violently upset about the existence of the gender community are men. It seems to upset their more fragile egos. Women, on the other hand, are sometimes flattered by the compliment of imitation.

Women have been treated as second class citizens their entire lives and therefore are amused by the fact that some men, who seem to hold the top position, would relinquish the dominant power spot, however briefly.

Men's history of physical aggression and hair-trigger violence has always been of interest to me. The testosterone based brain has always carried with it a shorter fuse leading to a more physically destructive outcome. women, in their own way, can be equally as devastating, but tend to use their generally superior verbal qualities as their sword.

In any event, my message for the 90's is one of pride and dignity; of knowing and accepting who we are without apology.

GENDER PEER GROUP PRESSURE

Today, unlike early history, lifestyle transitions and gender choices are not thrust upon anybody except in a subtle and curious fashion through peer group to supposedly "advance up the ladder" of the gender spectrum. Dr. Richard Docter once mentioned a "Boy Scout" approach to transitioning. A person feels the need to attain more "merit badges" in the form of hormones, lifestyle changes, or cosmetic surgery until they are firmly set on a course toward

earning an "Eagle Scout" award in Trinidad, Colorado. This ultimate outcome certainly is not for everybody and nowadays more than ever, there are more alternatives open to all of us in terms of lifestyle choices.

The commitment to acknowledging our femme self should be an intensely personal decision. Wherever you fall along the gender spectrum, whether the road leads to surgery or merely a weekend party of dressing up, it is important at this point in history to do away with the shame, guilt, and self doubt that has pervaded the community for so many years. I personally believe that in this next millennium, alternative lifestyles will become more accepted by society so as to become routine and pass'e. It is a necessary goal for all of us now to work at targeting information to less informed and less enlightened people in our society. Today our culture tends to lump all people in our community in narrow stereotypes. We're either gay, campy caricatures of women or Christine Jorgensen, with nothing in between.

AIDS RELATED BACKLASH

In comparison to Europe and Asia, we are a "young society". So in pushing the gender envelope, we are also faced with the extra burden of overcoming a society in the United States which is one of the most sexually repressed, homophobic tribes on the entire planet. Therefore, it should come as no surprise to anyone that as the AIDS crisis develops to severe epidemic proportions, it will certainly begin to haunt us as we become unfairly characterized as a perverse, substrata of people who are spreading the disease. Until a cure is found, part of the anxiety about AIDS and its impact on society will fall on our shoulders. These and other kinds of prejudice will be hard to overcome, as we face the next decade in which the gender issue will certainly come more and more into the light.

Also in the 90's, it is up to each of you to work to change the old Hollywood stereotypes of crossdressers being portrayed as psychopathic murderers in such movies and Hitchcock's 'Psycho' and Michael Caine's 'Dressed to Kill'. These or the Milton Berle type of burlesque drag have not helped to clarify issues of gender choice. However, films like 'Tootsie' (which was not necessarily about crossdressing) have at least softened the blow as regards the public's image. Most of all, your ladylike actions and involvement will soften prevailing public attitudes about who we are.

Involvement ranging from speaking on college campuses and to police departments, simple financial support of gender groups, and letters to congressmen, will help immensely toward reaching our goals in the 90's. The hard working staff at IFGE work for virtually free year round to make things better for all of us. You should acknowledge this kind of commitment with a matching commitment of your own in terms of financial, moral, or physical support.

In the 90's, we might find ourselves politically where the gay movement was 20 or 30 years ago in terms of finding an identity and embracing a sense of pride. In the 50's the gay community confronted the issues of organizing, networking, and mobilizing political clout. I mentioned that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and that political power is never given, it has to be wrestled free. The advice that our forefathers (and foremothers) have given us holds true 200 years later. Realize that your femininity is not based on a whim or passing fancy, but it is a core part of your identity.

Don't let others complicate your life by making you feel guilty about this. Rather than find yourself alone, develop a sense of pride in who you are as an individual and who we are as a community.

As enlightened, expansive thinkers, find new and creative ways to undo 10,000 years of male dominated history and bring a softened, nurturing sense of femininity to life and to the world. When you reach that state of grace with yourself, you find peace. You realize that passing is not as important as simply being. You can realize a sense of confidence coming out of this feeling of self-worth. You then exchange the verbs "passing" for simply "being".

As experienced members of the gender community, you have a moral responsibility to help others as they come along and take that first courageous step out of the closet to embrace their femininity. For myself, I experienced a great sense of excitement, of rebirth, at age 31; a born again woman. After the giddiness and euphoria of my newly found identity wore off, the business of nurturing this side of me and helping others was clearly the next step which needed to be attended to.

As you explore your femme side, you find that you feel less "crossdressed" and more like simply "being yourself." Although crossdressing is our common denominator, conferences like IFGE's allow you the opportunity to explore different option and that very important side that you knew existed early in life when you thought that you were the only person in the entire universe that felt this way.

SPECIFIC GOALS IN THE 1990'S

Where we are going in the 90's encompasses involvement, increased commitment, and an under-

standing kind of network that can bring us together to discuss important issues. General issues such as political and gender community involvement; specific issues like peer group pressure from within the community that push people into hormones or re-assignment surgery before they are ready.

It is also important to be mindful that we create a new kind of closet in which people hide in social groups rather than relate to the rest of society. We need to address the topic of the tension that exists from disparate goals among TV, TG, TS, and gay communities. A kind of healing and understanding can be worked out by getting in touch with our nurturing and loving feminine side. We should work toward a realization that no matter how you think people perceive you, or how well you look that looks are not everything. We need to fight against the male oriented thing of Madison Avenue's version of what women should look like. We should understand that 99% of passing is attitude and, in the 90's, we should have a more relaxed and confident attitude. Let's not get sidetracked by the intoxicating atmosphere of living in a false alternative existence in which there is a real world and a fantasy femme world. One of the goals that I feel we should address in the 90's is a "coming together" of the best of both sides of your personality in a unified and successfully integrated, relaxed portrayal to society.

Stepping through the looking glass, you often see the reverse image of yourself. As Alice, don't become a lost soul floating in wonderland, but embrace the flip side of your personality without denying your previous history and its impact on your future plans. For those who make a life commitment by transitioning, it's not enough to purge your previous life by destroying photos and facts concerning you as a human being prior to transition. Instead, learn to love who you are as a person, which means coming to grips with who you <u>were</u> as a person. The notion of creating "new people" in some God-like manner has been written about from Pygmalian to Dr. Frankenstein. None of us have the omnipotent power of a deity to create new life. We do have the option to alter it in an acceptably comfortable form.

There is a tendency in our community to take ourselves too seriously with a guarded ability to laugh at ourselves in life situations. With blinders on, we sometimes wallow in self-effacing pity as to how things might have been if we had been born into the right circumstance. When life hands you lemons, don't just make lemonade, make <u>pink</u> lemonade. In the 90's, we want to put the buck passing, finger pointing, shifting of responsibility past us and as "adult children" move on to accepting responsibility about where we are in life. We can go ahead with a sense of pride and doing the best we can to educate the public about who we are in a non-judgmental fashion.

I'm not suggesting that this will be easy, crossing the gender line. Reaction of the general public to crossing the gender line seems to go against the very grain of original birthright and, to some, contradicts the basic division of nature. It is therefore understandable that to the unenlightened, uneducated, and non-expansive thinkers on the planet that this phenomenon brings about a knee-jerk response that can range from quiet disgust to outright violent reactions. It's up to us to change those attitudes about gender choice for all our sakes.

It seems that anytime a celebrity has ever briefly touched on the subject of gender, it is radical enough for them to be branded for life. It's funny that after thousands of television shows, Phil Donahue is best remembered as the guy who wore the "dress". Film director Sidney Pollock has a long and distinguished film career, but the press refers to him as "Tootsie's" Sidney Pollock. Milton Berle has been doing comedy burlesque for half a century, but for most, his campy drag comes instantly to mind. Pushing the gender envelope to the limits seems to call for more patient understanding from friends and relatives than revealing to loved ones that you are gay or perhaps a convicted ax murderer.

Instead of making hand-wringing apologies to friends and loved ones, who should be pleased for our happiness, we should be proud of who we are without apology. I'm not suggesting jeopardizing jobs, careers, and relationships, but enlightened, loving people are not threatened by those who are different from themselves. On the contrary, for the most part, they welcome variety as the spice of life. I've wondered about people of the "Morton Downey Audience" variety who turn violently hostile at the mere notion that there are folks who are different from themselves. How arrogant they must be to assume everyone should be like themselves. As the Bible points out, who among us is so perfect that they have the right to judge anyone, let alone in a sarcastic or depreciating manner? By what right does someone stand in judgment and assume their way is the only way? What supreme arrogance and colossal egotism! yet, most of us do it in some small way throughout our own life. This is why there is such a need for coming together and understanding the various elements in our community.

You want to be careful about revealing yourself if you decide to go public because some become hostile, or at least passively aggressive, if they are confused. You upset their frame of reference by telling them that black is white and up is down. A lot of folks

become very defensive about this. The same holds true if they perceive someone anatomically male their entire life, who suddenly declares himself female as a gender choice. By confusing their frame of reference, people aren't able to peg you into a convenient slot and the kind of defensive hostility, bigotry, or social ostracism that results can harm jobs, relationships, and the tranquility of life in general. The solution is educating the public to separate concepts of sex and gender as the difference between what's between your legs and what's between your ears. Our concept of how people view themselves is their business and there is no rightness or wrongness attached to it.

In the 90's, if a young girl envisions herself as an athlete or future U.S. president nowadays no one balks, but the young boy who envisions himself as a dressmaker is in trouble right from the start in our nervous, homophobic society. To educate the public takes time, effort, and a desire to change things.

My hope is that this presentation is provocative and controversial enough to stimulate open discussion as to how we might further our goals. For the futurists among you, speculate on the various dynamics of role expectations in the future, a future in which women take on more responsibility and equal pay. This is a sensible approach to living. My hope is that the discussion will also include common goals of the gay, lesbian, D&S, TV, TG, and TS communities and how we can all work together instead of working at opposite ends, diluting the strength that we do have.

Merissa has spoken of a long term goal in the 90's to encourage the professional community to have transvestism and transsexualism removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The gay community had themselves removed from the DSM and we hope that we'll be off of the list as well. By doing this, we will help to de-stigmatize our group.

SUMMARY

To sum up proposed goals in the next decade, these are positive steps to take in the 1990's:

· PARTICIPATE IN TALKS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

·. BE ACTIVE IN WRITING TO CONGRESSMEN.

·. TAKE AN INTEREST IN EDUCATING MAJOR CORPORATIONS REGARDING PEOPLE WHO TRANSITION ON THE JOB.

·. PUT ASIDE TIME TO VOLUNTEER YOURSELF TO CHARITY WORKING IN YOUR FEMME ROLE TO BUILD A POSITIVE PUBLIC IMAGE.

·. BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF YOUR SISTERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND GIVE ACCEPTANCE AS MUCH AS YOU LOOK FOR IT.

·. DON'T LET YOUR EGO GET IN THE WAY OF JOINT GENDER COMMUNITY PROGRESS.

·. POOL YOUR SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL TALENTS TO TRY AND HELP ONE ANOTHER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Lastly, if you feel you have neither the time nor talent or fear risk of exposure, you can always send money in your place.

By going public, we are going to have to face the inevitable rejection and scorn with a sense of pride. That pride will carry us through the worst of times and reflect as a positive influence on the entire community. There is always a quiet sadness that comes when your femme spirit has to be locked up when "brother" has to go out to make a living. However, you can draw strength from the knowledge that you are not alone and there is a community, a supportive sorority of sisters to network with and participate in conventions.

The closest thing we currently have to a national lobby is IFGE and if we are able to transcend petty squabbling, we can look forward to some societal reforms. I'd like to believe that I'm part of a group that will stand by each other when the going gets tough.

I close by sharing a few thoughts with you about the ultimate goal of all of us in the 90's. That goal is to change the feeling of "gender dysphoria" into "gender euphoria". The quiet sadness that many of us have felt can be instantly changed into a happiness by merely a shift of attitude on our own part once we truly accept who we are.

One of the sisters in our community wrote a letter recently stating her happiness very eloquently. She wrote:

"I had fought against my selfhood for so long, it was hard to walk off the battlefield. But when I finally accepted my womanhood and began living full time on the weekends, many of the pressures that hounded me were minimized or eliminated. What a wonderful feeling all through this process. Through years of therapy at a gender identity clinic, I had only one objective, to be who I am. I didn't know where I'd end up and I had some pretty hard experiences along the way. But through all of the confusion and turmoil, I remained fixed on one truth: I truly believe that there

is a good, valuable, and exciting person in me waiting to appear. It was my job to become that unique individual. I clung to that idea like a life raft in ten foot waves and it got me through. And now, although I'm not living full time yet, I'm really at peace with myself. I know who I am and where I'm going.

My major challenge at this point is just simple fear. In a way, the transition that I'll be going through is almost like a Greek myth. I have to go through my worst fear in order to realize my true identity. I've spent my whole life trying to be accepted and respected and now that I've succeeded, I'll have to face the likelihood of rejection and scorn to some degree in order to be who I am. This fear grips me at odd times these days and when it does, I grab hold of my life raft and remember what I'm creating and how good the process is. With all of the negatives, real and imagined, I've never felt more alive than I do these days. I'm getting along better with people and enjoying the small things in life that used to pass me by. Life is beautiful."

I'd like to conclude this presentation by quoting a short story by Robert Fulghum in his best seller, "All I Really Need To Know, I Learned In Kindergarten". His "uncommon thoughts on common things" include a story about a gentle observation on life I'd like to share with you.

MERMAIDS

Giants, wizards, and dwarfs was the game to play.

Being left in charge of about eighty children seven to ten years old, while their parents were off doing parenty things, I mustered my troops in the church social hall and explained the game. It's a large-scale version of Rock, Paper, Scissors, and involves some intellectual decision making. But the real purpose of the game is to make a lot of noise and run around chasing people until nobody knows which side you are on or who won.

Organizing a roomful of wired-up gradeschoolers into two teams, explaining the rudiments of the game, achieving consensus on group identity--all this is no mean accomplishment, but we did it with a right good will and were ready to go.

The excitement of the chase had reached a critical mass. I yelled out: "You have to decide now which you are--a GIANT, a WIZARD, or a DWARF!"

While the groups huddled in frenzied, whispered consultation, a tug came at my pants leg. A small child stands there looking up, and asks in a small, concerned voice, "Where do the Mermaids stand?"

Where do the Mermaids stand?

A long pause. A very long pause. "Where do the Mermaids stand?" says I.

"Yes. You see, I am a Mermaid." she said.

I said, "There are no such things as Mermaids."

"Oh, yes, I am one!"

You see, she did not relate to being a Giant, a Wizard, or a Dwarf. She knew her category. Mermaid. And was not about to leave the game and go over and stand against the wall where a loser would stand. She intended to participate, wherever Mermaids fit into the scheme of things. Without giving up dignity or identity. She took it for granted that there was a place for Mermaids and that I would know just where.

Well, where DO the Mermaids stand? All the "Mermaids"--all those who are different, who do not fit the norm and who do not accept the available boxes and pigeonholes in society.

Answer the question and you can build a world.

What was my answer at the moment? Every once in a while I say the right thing. "The Mermaid stands right her by the King of the Sea!" says I.

So we stood there hand in hand, reviewing the troops of Wizards and Giants and Dwarfs as they rolled by in wild disarray.

It is not true, by the way, that mermaids do not exist. I know at least one personally. I have held her hand.

To all you beautiful mermaids out there, I wish you luck, love, and pride.

Thank you.

- END -

THERE AND BACK AGAIN:

THE TRINIDAD EXPERIENCE

By: Wendi Danielle Pierce

The following is a recollection of events that I experienced immediately preceding and during a period in my life in the spring of 1989. My purpose in writing this piece is to give others some insight into the events that transpire during an event such as I experienced. In retrospect, I would not want to go through an experience such as this again, but if I had not yet done it, I would surely go through it again to be the complete person I now feel that I am.

"....Then the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom", Anais Nin.

Part I:
Leading Up To The Trip

The past several weeks have been a time of reflection for me. Time seems to be running at a rapid pace and weeks seem to be going past as days use to. It has been almost 2 years since I adopted my new lifestyle and began a trek that about two months ago brought me to a place called Trinidad.

It still seems like a dream, the final decision making, the planning, the experience itself and the tremendous satisfaction I now have in knowing that I am now physically the person I long felt that I wanted to be. Now that some time has elapsed, I felt that this experience should be reiterated in a forum such as this so that others might know what to expect and how to approach this life changing adventure.

I guess the story should begin last December. Actually the journey began many years ago, since I feel our entire life is a fantastic journey that we both consciously and unconsciously direct. Some people say that fate controls our ultimate destiny, but I feel that we make our own destiny. We create the situations that cause things to happen, and we make the choices that open and close avenues and other choices down the road. At any rate, after living full time as a woman for about a year, I began to feel a strong desire to be the complete person I felt was waiting inside to bloom. Mentally I had been asking myself for some time whether this was what I really wanted, and about that point, I realized that I was not giving anything up, I had done that over the past few years. Instead, I realized that I had everything to gain.

During the past year I had been unconsciously and consciously preparing myself for this experience and I now knew that the time was right, the time was now.

The first steps were to make a decision where to have surgery. I chose Dr. Biber for several reasons. He has done more of this type of surgery that anyone else; he came with many good recommendations from others I have talked with who have had SRS; and lastly, the inputs I got from others indicated that the environment surrounding the actual surgery was a caring environment in which all involved were experienced and the well being of the patient was a top priority. SRS in Trinidad is not an out of the ordinary thing, thousands have come here for this procedure and the town and the hospital staff are accepting.

I first contacted Dr. Biber by letter, explaining my desires and giving him a brief history of my life, my present situation and my aspirations for the future. What returned was a letter, informing me of the specific criteria that he required for tentative acceptance as a candidate and a fee schedule of his services. I was somewhat surprised to see that a person could have several other procedures done at the same time that SRS was done. Breast augmentation, trachea shave, even a nose reconstruction was possible. For me the only procedure I felt necessary should be done at this time was SRS, and in a return letter, along with letters from my therapists, and photo, this was what I requested. After about a week, actually I think it was only six days, I became impatient. Was I to be accepted? Was there a problem? Would I be able to get

a surgery date in the near future, the next six months? My curiosity got the best of me and I called his office on the last Friday in February. His secretary, Marie answered and when asked about my status, she replied, Oh Yes, Wendi, you are scheduled for March 15th, will that be OK? I was floored, here she was telling me that in less than three weeks, I was to be complete! Then I asked why I hadn't received any written confirmation of my request. She then said that it was sent out the previous day, probably wondering how I had received it so soon. The letter arrived on Monday and in it was a request that I contact them to setup a surgery date.

At any rate, I told Marie that Friday that March 15th was a bit too soon and I would be in contact with her after I received her mailing of the previous day.

Wendi Danielle Pierce

Many people have asked me if I had any doubts after making the decision to have SRS, but I tell them all the same thing. I don't feel I'm losing anything. I'm gaining the completeness and congruity that I desire, that's the reason I chose to do this.

Later that week I again contacted Marie to confirm the reception of her letter and to setup a surgery date. I had decided that it would be appropriate if I could have my surgery on May 4th, my original birthday, but when I asked if this date was available, she told me that it had already been taken. I then asked what the next earliest date was and she replied, "oh I think we've got an opening around the 15th". I then said, "is there anything sooner?", and she replied, "We do have a May 2nd opening". I said, "I'll take it, I'll take it!", and my date was set.

The next few weeks are a blur. I know I was busy, with work, my social life, and this newsletter but little seems to stand out. I do recall telling a few friends at work that I was going to travel to Colorado for some surgery and mentioned that I was going to Trinidad, probably by train via Albuquerque. One person said, why not fly right into Pueblo, they've got an airport and it's only about an hour or so drive down to Trinidad from there. I checked and they were right. Now at least I knew how I was going to get there and had travel reservations, another thing to check off my list. I had started a mental list of all I had to do before leaving and now I was starting to check off things one by one.

As the time approached my surgery, I began to feel that I was heading through a funnel. My scope of thoughts seemed to be diminishing down to the point that when I was on the bus from Pueblo to Trinidad, all I could think about was my surgery. The beauty was that afterward, the whole world seemed to blossom again and everything seemed to almost burst back into my mind.

Part II:
A Bus Ride to Hell?

As the time for surgery approached I started to feel a sense of loneliness. I knew that I would be with others having similar surgeries while I was in Trinidad, but I wouldn't have anyone close to me accompanying me on the trip. Then a very good friend, who had been one of my closest confidants during the prior months, informed me that she would be scheduling some additional surgery to coincide with my stay in Trinidad. This was a real boost for me in the final weeks before the trek began in earnest. I now knew that there would be someone I felt close to that would be there, I wouldn't be alone and I could share the experience with someone. I was right, and she and I became even closer through this experience. The people you meet while in Trinidad (I mean those who are also having surgery), and the ones, if any that accompany you become very special people to you. They have shared something with you that has been a desire most if not all of your life and they know how important this step is. They are kind of a new family for the rebirth that you experience.

Finally, the trip started. It was on a Sunday, and I flew to Pueblo where I was to catch a bus to Trinidad. I made the assumption, which turned out to be a poor one, that I could just take a taxi from the airport to the bus station and be on my way in an hour or so. As I soon found out, there were several busses that traveled south from Pueblo, but if I wanted to get off in Trinidad, I would have to wait till about 9:00 pm that evening. Here it was 4:00 pm in the afternoon, so I waited.

There was a light sprinkle of showers that afternoon in Pueblo, and I had not brought at umbrella, also since Pueblo is at about 6000 ft. above sea level, and it was quite chilly. I had not brought much in the way of clothes and my denim jacket was barely enough to keep me warm. I did however venture across the street from the bus terminal for a bite to eat in a little bar/restaurant called "The Do Drop Inn". It turned our to be a friendly neighborhood bar which served Pizza and sandwiches. The locals were a little curious about my lingering around for a few hours, but when I told the waitress I was waiting for a bus, she obviously spread the word and the glances slowed to an occasional quick look by a few of the guys at the bar once in a while. Later it was back to the bus terminal to await my transportation to Trinidad.

Bus stations are interesting places if you're into people watching as I am, and this one was no exception. There were the bums looking to get in out of the rain, the obviously low income and down on their luck families with two or three small children and grocery bags as luggage, the students traveling back to college after a weekend home, the elderly men and women traveling alone, all sitting on benches staring at space and one another. Once in a while a conversation would spring up between strangers, and all would kind of tune in to what was being said. It was apparent that the air was filled with anticipation. Someone would break the silence, actually the background noise and query another about something, and then the telling of each others stories would unfold. It went something like this.... "I'm going to see my sister in Albuquerque, She's been ill and I got some time off to see her". "We,re going to El Paso to look for work, they told me that carpenters are doing real good down there right now". "I've got this travel pass and it's good for three more months. I've never been out of Colorado and since I'm retired now, I'm going to travel to Florida and visit my grandchildren".

No one asked me for my story but I bet they would probably have raised an eyebrow if I had told them of the purpose of my trip. At any rate, busses came and went every half hour or so, and the cast of characters was always changing.

Everyone seemed to know when it was their bus's turn. There were announcements on an almost intelligible PA system, and then a group of passengers would scurry off on their bus. Then another group would slowly congregate. This went on for over four hours. Finally a bus pulled in at about the time I was scheduled to catch mine. I waited a few minutes but no announcements came over the PA system. Was This one Mine? I went over to the door and looked at it and it did not say Greyhound. The name on the side was Greenville Bus Lines. I then walked over to the ticket counter and asked the agent if this was the bus to Trinidad. He said, "Oh yea, it'll be leaving soon." In a few minutes I was boarding the bus. This was kind of a milk run bus that stopped at every little berg along the way and it was fairly full. I started looking for a seat and asked a passenger in the front if smoking was allowed on the bus. His reply was "Yea in the back." On my way to the back of the bus, I started to people watch again. What a strange and varied group we were. There were old men sleeping, mothers with small babies crying, two old women staring at me and whispering to one another, and a pair of obviously gay women necking, I was expecting to see a farmer with a few chickens under an arm at any moment. Near the back I spotted an empty pair of seats and laid claim. I wanted to stretch out and try and nap a little, so I didn't want to sit next to anyone. The pair of seats seemed ideal. Actually they were about the only choice. Within a few minutes we started rolling, and I mean rolling. The rain had started in earnest and was coming down quite heavy. In no time we were on the Interstate, passing other vehicles at a regular rate. I couldn't understand how the driver could even see the road ahead at times.

Now I started to investigate my immediate travel companions a little. It was pitch black outside and a blinding rain was obscuring any views out the front of the bus, so the only thing left besides sleep, which I couldn't do at this time, was a little more people watching and listening. Behind me were two little old ladies chain-smoking and gossiping about their relatives, a very heavy older gentleman loudly snoring across from them. The lesbians, now going at it hot and heavy in front of me, a young mother dangling a cigarette in her mouth while rocking her newborn across from me and a solitary young man in front of her. It seemed such a strange congregation of soles, all wanting to be somewhere and all kind of bunched together for the trip. Then I started to hear the people in the front of the bus all saying to each other, "Look at that!". There was a bright orange glow through the front window of the bus and as we passed, I could see an older station wagon heading in the opposite direction, pulled over with flames blazing out of all it's windows. There were no people outside and I could only wonder if they made it out in time. We shot by

and in a moment it was no longer in sight.

As I said before, this was a "milk run" and we stopped at every little town along the way. We'd leave the interstate, wind through a few country roads and into the little towns. Since it was almost 10:00 pm and pouring rain, they all appeared like ghost towns. None in sight. Empty bus stops, not even a stray dog in sight. I thought it a little strange that no one even got off or on at any of the stops. We were all headed somewhere down the line.

When the bus pulled into Trinidad I wasn't sure quite what to expect. Was this town going to be like all the rest of the stops along the way, or would it at least seem inhabited? Would I get off the bus and be in another ghost town with Rod Serling standing there saying, "You have now entered the Twilight Zone". Then I began to see familiar sights out of the bus window. Sights like a Pizza Hut, drug stores, supermarkets, and even a MacDonald's. People were also visible. The rain had subsided and I began to feel a little more secure. The bus then pulled up on a side street next to a laundromat. I looked out and there was a glass door at the side of the building with a Greyhound emblem over it. This was my stop, and I shuffled out to see what was in store in the next segment of this trek.

Part III:
There at Last

With some difficulty, I managed to get my suitcase, which was on a two wheel carrier, up the steps and through the door of the tiny bus station. When I got inside I realized that this same business was also the laundromat, a video arcade, a variety store, a lunch counter, and even had rooms to rent. I later found out that the rooms were only $10 a night but didn't have phones, TV or a private bath, but they were rooms! I then waited at one end of this "bus station" counter while the girl behind the counter made some small talk with the bus driver. She seemed to know him fairly well and they talked and joked for a few minutes. Then he said that he was running late due to the rain and had to be going. Now attention turned to me, a stranger in town and it was obvious that I needed some information. I'm not sure but I'd say that she didn't know why I had come to Trinidad. I told her that I'd need a place to stay for a couple days and she recommended the Trinidad Motor Inn. She said it was a nice place, close to the center of town and they usually had vacancies. I then asked her to call a cab and she looked at me a little strange. She then said that It wouldn't be any real bother to take me over there herself. I sensed a friendly undertone to her voice, and I had just heard her telling the bus driver that she and her boyfriend were on the rocks. I felt that she wanted to talk to someone, and I seemed a likely candidate. I then asked her how she could leave the bus station unattended, actually it was only a counter in the laundromat. She replied that it was no problem, there wouldn't be another bus till 10 the next morning and, "it was a real dead night with the rain and all". So off we went.

I waited outside while she went to get her car, "a rickety old station wagon", as she called it. She was about my age, medium build, curly shoulder length hair and she spoke with a decidedly southwestern drawl. When she arrived with the car, I started to unfasten my suitcase from it's carrier and she interrupted saying, "that's OK, we'll just keep it all together and toss it back here", as she picked up the 40 lbs. of suitcase, travel carrier and a duffel bag and placed it in the back of the wagon like it was a small bag of groceries. She was a strong woman!

On the way over to the motel we began to talk and she asked me why I was in town. I didn't want to be evasive but I also didn't want to get into a long explanation, so I just said that I was here to see some people for a few days over at the hospital. That satisfied her curiosity and then she changed the topic over to herself. She said that she was a pipefitter for oil drilling companies and had worked all over Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and even Alaska. She did not go into any detail about the circumstances that brought her to Trinidad, but she did say that she had only been here for a few months, was getting tired of the sleepy little town, and probably would be moving on soon. I could tell she was a free spirit and probably liked to party. Later I would confirm these observations.

As we approached the motel she mentioned that they had a lounge and that she might just stop in an have a nightcap. This I could use too, as it had been a trying day of travel and unfamiliar surroundings, so I said that I'd like to join her if she didn't mind, as a matter-of-fact I'd like to buy her a drink for being so friendly and helping me to get over to the motel. She accepted my offer and after I checked in, before I even stopped off at the room, I met her in the bar.

It was a cozy little place, with a dozen or so tables, a juke box playing country tunes, a small dance floor, and a barmaid looking a little bored.

There was a single guy at the other end of the bar conversing with the barmaid as I came in and sat down at the bar next to Barbara. I then offered to pay for her drink and she said that the barmaid had bought this one. Then, to my surprise, the barmaid asked me if I'd like a complimentary one too. I accepted and ordered a scotch on the rocks. What I got was a triple, with more scotch than rocks. While I was

starting to sip my drink and get acclimated to my surroundings, I listened to the conversation already in progress. My friend Barbara had introduced herself and me to the guy at the other end of the bar and he was telling her and the barmaid what he did for a living. He was a "high voltage" repairman and worked on live high tension lines all over the country. He traveled and worked with another guy that was his associate and assistant. Barbara then asked where his friend was and he replied, "up in the room". She asked whether he could get his friend to come down and join us, but he replied, "why don't you just go up and get him!" In a flash she had his room key and was off, returning in about 15 minutes with Tim.

While she was gone, I started up a conversation with the guy. He said his name was Joe, but everybody called him "Smokin' Joe". He immediately got up and moved over next to me. After a short while, I was sitting there talking to him with his arm around me. I sure didn't expect to be partying with a couple cowboys and a "local" in Trinidad, the night before entering the hospital for SRS, but here it was happening. At any rate, the four of us had a lively time talking, dancing and even a little necking until about 1:00 am. I then explained that I had an appointment to see someone at 9:00 am and I'd have to call it a night. Smokin' Joe was not too happy, but he was a gentleman and after a little discussion and a goodnight kiss I was off to my room, which was yet to be entered.

Part IV:
Hurry Up and Wait!

The morning came quickly and I awoke about 7:00 am. I was a little unsure about the time I was supposed to appear at Dr. Biber's office but seemed to recall the time 10:00 am from the many times I had read the information sheets provided by Dr. Biber's office. So I was in no big hurry showering, getting dressed, applying my make-up and packing the few things I'd spread about. I had brought along a companion, a soft cuddly bear that had become a kind of night-time companion during the past few months, and I was beginning to talk to this stuffed animal as if it was alive. I had named the little guy "Dinner Bear" since he originally was perched on a chair at my kitchen table, and therefore was always present at dinner. I was living alone at the time and the bear was always willing and eager to "hear" my stories of the day's happenings (humor me on this one). Anyway, "Bear" and the few other belongings that I had spread about were soon packed away and I was off to the restaurant in the motel for breakfast. It was 8:35am and I felt I was running a little ahead of schedule.

As I approached the lobby, I wondered if I would see "Smokin' Joe" or his friend and possibly have breakfast with them. As I entered, no signs of life were present at all. I shuffled off through the lobby and into the restaurant, my baggage in tow on a folding airline tote cart. The place was almost deserted with the exception of a group of about 4 or 5 "Good Olde Boys" spread out at a table on one side on the room. As I passed they gave me a close look and all started mumbling to each other. I assumed they had put the inevitable "two and two" together and knew why I was there. They had probably seen hundreds of unaccompanied young to middle aged women, looking a little uneasy and unfamiliar on many a Monday morning. Dr. Biber's work was no secret in the community and after thousands of others had been here before, I assumed that my presence needed no explanation. Anyway I proceeded to shuffle past them smiling as I passed. They returned the smiles and I felt a little more comfortable.

Service in the restaurant was quick, after all the "Good-Olde-Boys" and I were the only customers in the place. I was soon presented with a bacon omelet, a side of home-fries and hot coffee. Before I started to eat, I decided to get the blow-by-blow description of what was going to happen during the next few days out of my purse and review it one more time as I was eating. As I started to munch, I again (probably for the 100th time) read the first section: "a visit to the doctor's office". Well, there it was in black and white, right before my eyes, "BE AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE AT 9:00AM THE MORNING BEFORE SURGERY". I had read this sheet so many times before and I could swear it had said 10:00AM. "Oh Damn!", I looked at the clock and it was 10 minutes to 9:00am. Down went the whole breakfast in 18 seconds flat. I flew past the cashier, money in hand, and she grabbed it as if it was a mail bag dangling out the window of a steaming train as in old times. I checked out of the room at the front desk, had them call a cab and was standing outside at the curb in about 90 seconds.

It was a very brisk morning, I later saw the temperature at the Trinidad National Bank which read 7 deg. C. (about 45 Deg F.) Several minutes passed and THE cab pulled up. It was being driven by a middle aged woman, probably a American Indian, and she was a real talkative soul. As I sat down in the front seat, She already had the back seat filled with what looked like laundry and a teenage girl, possibly her daughter. She said, "Going to the Bank?" I replied, "yes, how did you know?" She then said, "most of you girls do". I was then assured that she knew why I was in town. She looked me in the eyes, smiled, and said, "I've taken hundreds of you girls over there". Out of the blue, she started to talk about Dr. Biber. She said how most of the people in town were very grateful to him for his efforts to keep the hospital afloat, largely due to his "Sex-Change aa-pray-shins",

as she put it.

She was a real "Lead foot" and we were soon at the Bank building where Dr. Biber's office was located. Actually is was only five short blocks down the street, and I could have walked it in about 10 minutes. Oh well!. The fare was $5, a bit steep, but she was the only game in town and knew it. I enjoyed her conversation and as I got out she said, "See ya in a little while". She knew I'd probably be getting another ride, this time from the motel to the hospital, since I'd left my bags with the desk clerk in the lobby.

The Bank building is in the center of town, a typical mid-west or western town. It had a main street lined with shops and crowded with pick-up trucks and cars carrying farmers, and town's people about to do their shopping after the weekend. Dr. Biber's office was accessible via a side street entrance and up an ancient elevator. The entrance to the building was a bit tired and run-down with tenants names crossed out and taped over with new ones on many parts of the once elegant marble building directory. The doctor's office, "The Trinidad Medical Clinic" had a place of prominence as the sole occupant of the fourth floor. I rode up the battle scarred elevator, listening to it creak and groan and finally the graffiti scarred door opened at the fourth floor.

I stepped out, not knowing what to expect. I was in a corridor with a few office desks to my right, and a bench along the end of the hall, not too far to the left. I approached the first desk and informed a fairly obese woman that I was here to see Dr. Biber for re-assignment surgery. She looked a little curiously at me and then motioned me to take a seat in the waiting room at the end of the hall.. I did so, and unknowingly a long wait began.

It was 9:10am and I was about the third patient in the waiting room. Slowly over the next hour, I counted 20 or so other patients come and go. About 10:30, I was ushered out to another office, that of Marie, Dr. Biber's secretary and the person whom I had been in contact with over the past months. She was a warm friendly person, much more so than I had been able to ascertain through our phone conversations. She went over the consent forms with me, accepted my cashier's check and asked several preliminary questions. I could see that this was a major if not the primary function which she performed. Her desk was stacked with letters and other paperwork which she indicated was from others requesting the same surgery that I was there to receive.

We talked for about 15 minutes and she informed me that I would be seeing the doctor soon, and would go directly to the hospital from there. Apparently, the routine had changed since the instruction / information sheets were printed, and I would be in the hospital sooner than I thought. Well, "soon" must mean different things to different people. I returned to the waiting room and waited until approximately noon before my name was again called.

The waiting room and the office in general were almost surrealistic. Kind of like being transformed back into 1962, possibly 1952. The furniture was early fifties. The floor was worn and curling rubber tile with a well worn medical symbol inlaid in the tile at the center of the room. Radiators lined the wall below oversized windows partially covered with Venetian blinds; even the magazines, mostly American Legion publications and ancient Time Magazine issues were at least 5-8 years old. I remember picking up one and seeing the publication date sometime in 1978. At any rate, the patients came and went, old women, a cowboy with a severe limp, a young couple with a new born, several old men and many more older women. It looked like the women were outliving the men in this town by at least 3 to 1.

Then my turn finally came. My name was called, and I was escorted into an empty examining room. Momentarily would be seeing the doctor for the first time. As I sat down on an examining table to wait, he spoke to me from an adjacent room, "I'll be with ya in a minute, my girl, I've got to finish up with Olde Harry here first". In about three minutes he again spoke from the adjacent room, "Come on in now, Girl". I walked into his office, and got my first glimpse of Dr. Biber. He was sitting at an old desk, cluttered with papers and stacks of material. There was an ancient manual upright type-writer at his left in an office overlooking a back street. The sun was shining in through a large window behind him and he looked up just a moment from a prescription he was filling for Olde Harry in the next room. In a few moments he was ready and told me that he had a few questions to ask. My folder was before him and he took out a blank sheet of paper to write on. His questions were brief; "Why do you want surgery?"; "What do want to gain from it?"; "Do you know the risks?". He took a brief family history and said that he had read the psychiatric reports I had forwarded and was satisfied that I fit the pattern, and was mentally a good candidate for successful adjustment afterward. He then asked me to go into the next examining room, disrobe and prepare for a physical examination. At the conclusion of this examination he told me that there should be no problems and that I should be very satisfied with the results of the surgery.

I then dressed again and he had me stand near the window in his office so that he might take a photo for my file with an ancient camera he produced. The

whole visit / interview lasted about 15 minutes. I was down in the street at about 12:30 walking back to the motel to get my bags and have lunch. About a block and a half up the street, I realized that I had passed my final test and was heading for the goal line. I was beaming! The walk to the motel was like floating on a cloud and I could see a light, a bright shining light at the end of the tunnel.

Part V:
Mt. San Rafael

I recall walking up the slight hill toward the motel and looking casually in the store windows as I passed, but I wasn't seeing anything inside. I was to preoccupied with what just had happened in Dr. Biber's office and that the final approval, his, had been given for me to complete my long desired goal, that of becoming the complete woman I always felt I was inside.

As I reached the motel, I realized that it had warmed up a little although a brisk breeze was blowing, and I was rather wind blown in appearance. I attempted to tame my hairdo a little as I entered the lobby, but I didn't really care what I looked like. All I was concerned with was collecting my things and getting over to the hospital. As I walked in, I noticed that lunch was being served and decided to grab a quick bite. I realized that I would be eating hospital food for several days and did not know what to expect, so after retrieving my bags, I shuffled into the restaurant for lunch. I know I ate but the meal itself and activities in the restaurant were clouded and overshadowed by my preoccupation of what was going to happen shortly.

The next thing I remember, I was standing in the lobby waiting for my ride, via Trinidad Cab, to Mt. San Rafael Hospital. When the cab arrived, I was greeted by the same woman that had picked me up before. She commented that everything must have gone all right at the doctor's office and in a few moments we were traveling across town to the hospital. She again made the comment that she had taken hundreds of girls over to the hospital and added that she was sure that I'd do fine. She apparently noticed my nervousness and my now more serious nature. Actually, I was just deeply in thought recalling all the steps I had made in the past 3 or 4 years that had brought me to this place, this point and in preparation for the coming event. As I recollected, I was watching the small town pass by. We were driving through the heart of this small rocky mountain town with it's typical hustle and bustle associated with noontime Monday activity. Mt San Rafael hospital is roughly across town from the Trinidad Motor Inn, about a 15 minute ride through the noon time traffic, and is located part way up a small hill. I was expecting an older building, similar to the buildings I had seen on Main Street, but I was surprised to see a fairly modern one story brown concrete structure with a large lawn and trees. It looked much like a contemporary junior college. We pulled up to the front entrance, unloaded my bags, and after paying her, she was off to pick up another fare. There I stood, at the curb, looking at the doorway about 60 ft. away, knowing that I would be confined within those doors for the better part of two weeks. The sun was warm on my back, the air was brisk and cool, I turned around to watch the cab disappear down the road and thought for a moment. Would everything be OK? Would I come through with flying colors, or would this be the ordeal of my life. Mentally, I was ready. Physically I was ready. I walked in.

The lobby reminded me of a school, "terzzo" floors, earth tones and a large mural overhead to my left. To the right were a number of temporary walls, obviously an afterthought. Through the windows of these walls which were only 8 feet high within a room with 20 foot ceilings, I could see clerks and other business office types shuffling papers. A sign indicated that this was the "admitting" office so I followed the arrow and went inside. An older woman greeted me, saying that Dr. Biber's office had called, and I was expected. She was a friendly person, obviously sensitive to the fact that I was nervous and wanting to make me feel as comfortable as possible. We went over the paperwork, I paid my money, (it's cash up front or no tickee here), and I was told to wait in the lobby for an interview with the anesthetist. As I sat in the lobby, the tension and apprehension began to subside. The staff had seen many like me before, and obviously were trying to make me feel a little more at ease.

After a short while, my anesthetist, Dorothy, appeared. She was a spry woman, in her late fifties I'd guess, and had a friendly nature, but she spoke with a strong amount of authority in her voice. I got the impression that she could be a real friend, but wouldn't stand for any shenanigans. She immediately got down to business and started to explain the methods, and combinations of medications she would be using. She explained in significant detail what I would be feeling, aware of, and what the next 24 hours would be like. In retrospect, her description was fairly accurate. I immediately got the impression that she was a very knowledgeable person, who took pride in her work, and had my best interests at heart. I now felt that I would be in good hands since I realized that she literally would be keeping me alive during the operation. We talked for about 10 or 15 minutes and she then hurried off to her other duties.

After some blood work was done, I was escorted through the halls to the far corner of the building, actually only about a 3 minute walk, to my room #440.

As I entered, I was pleased to see that the rooms were fairly bright and airy. I got a bed by the window and the other one in the room was vacant. I immediately requested that, if possible, that the other bed in the room be reserved for my friend who was to arrive in two days. The staff then told me that probably wasn't possible since the rooms are reserved well in advance. This dropped my spirits for a while until a nurse came in a little later and said that my room-mate was a girl named Kay, and that she'd be here on Thursday. I replied, "That's her, that's my friend!" She just smiled.

A little later, I was visited by Sister Roberta, the hospital patient representative. She's kind of a combination of a spiritual confidant, an ear to listen to your thoughts, a mail deliverer and a general "go-fer". She talked of all the girls she'd seen come and go over the years and she ever brought in a scrap book of photos that had been sent back to her by some of the girls she'd kept in contact with.

The remainder of that afternoon went quickly. About an hour after I was shown my room, I was instructed that I would be able to have a light dinner consisting of soup, jello and some toast. Later I would be "prepped" for the events of the next day. The key word here, "Prep", did not mean much till later. I would soon learn that this word and the associated actions it represented were non-trivial actions. For now, though, I stretched out on my bed and watched the activities occurring in the hall outside my room.

As I laid there thinking, I realized that all who had spoken to me that day had used feminine pronouns and that my ID bracelet also indicated that I was female. I felt good that these people were dealing with me as a woman and that their attitude was that they were helping me to correct a physical problem I had been trying to deal with all my life. They gave me the feeling that they were aware of my concerns regarding the events that would be occurring in the next few days, and they were trying to make me feel as comfortable as possible. They had been through this with many many girls over the years and were very reassuring, telling me that all would go just fine, and that I was in very good hands. Their confidence and positive attitude seemed to rub off and my apprehensions and concerns were put aside.

After dinner, which I only could pick at, a nurse came in and gave me a fairy detailed description of what would be happening that evening, and the next morning. She said that I would be "prepped", would receive an enema, and later would be given a sleeping pill. She also said that I would be awoken about 6am and would then receive an injection to make me drowsy. I would then be taken into surgery which should start about 7:30am. Afterward I would be returned to my room, and would probably be awake about 10am. She also said that I could request pain medications if I needed them at any time for the first day. This was the first time anyone specifically had mentioned the word "pain". Thoughts started to race through my mind about being in tremendous pain but I quickly suppressed them. At that point, I began a kind of self-hypnosis that I felt would help me to deal with the events soon to come. I began to recite to myself the following, "I feel no pain, I have no pain, I am in perfect health!" This little phrase would be recited many times during the next few days, and I do believe was very instrumental in helping me to deal with what I now find hard to accept as actually having happened. My recollections of the next day and night are intact, but not vivid, and the pain which could have been a life-long remembrance is instead only a shadow of a thought.

About 8pm, another nurse came in and said that it was time for my "prep". She then told me that she was going to shave the area that would be operated on tomorrow, and then wash me with a solution to kill any bacteria. Shaving my body had been a frequent thing at the time I began hormone treatments, but not anymore, and surely never the area that she was about to clear. My modesty immediately seemed to perk up, and I now did not want anyone to see my genital area and surely did not want anyone touching me there. I had come to feel that that area was a thing to be hidden, not even looked at by myself except for hygiene purposes.

As she started the shave, I thought to myself, "what if she slips?" Then I chuckled and thought, "that's ridiculous, it's going to be gone tomorrow anyway and even if she does, even if a vessel is severed, I'm in a hospital already, "Let's be serious, girl!" She didn't slip, and after a few moments I was at ease, and she soon finished. There were no nicks and I was as hairless as a newborn. Next came probably the most uncomfortable few moments up to that point which I can recall, "the enema", and lastly my genital area was coated with a dark cold solution. It seemed to stain my skin a dark yellow and mark the area that I would soon have corrected. About 9:30pm I was given a sleeping pill and was soon drifting off.

Morning came quickly, as I was nudged on the shoulder by an orderly. He was telling me that he was about to give me an injection that would make me drowsy. Heck, I was already drowsy, but acknowledged his comments and he then proceeded with the injection. I didn't feel any effect, and in a few minutes attempted to sit up. No chance! I was unable even to get up on one elbow. Unable to hold my arms up for any period of time. About 7:15am Jose arrived with

the gurney and I was rolled down the hallway and into surgery. My room was at the end of the hall, and I will always remember the ceiling lights passing overhead as we moved down the long hall. I somehow managed to get up on one elbow as we entered the operating room area and looked around hoping to see Dr. Biber or Dorothy. Neither was in sight, but as I laid back I heard her voice. Dorothy was saying good morning and immediately she again began to review what I should feel and how her medications would affect me. She then began to strap my left arm down to a board that protruded from the side of the table, the operating table, which I was now on. I was facing or at least my feet ware facing a wall of glass cabinets filled with bottles and other medical items, and there was a clock on the wall to my right. Above my right shoulder was the doorway through which I had been wheeled in, and I could see the scrub sink along the wall in that room. I looked at the clock once more and then up at the huge light above the table which I was on. I then asked Dorothy, "Where's Dr. Biber?" She replied, "Oh he'll be here in a minute," and then she said, "Are you ready?" I again looked at the clock, it said 7:37. I then replied, "Lets Go for it!" I closed my eyes for what I thought was just a moment and never got a chance to open then again. She had started the IV and out I went.

I have no recollection of the events that transpired over the next several hours. I only recall a severe burning in my lower abdomen and the feeling that the area between my legs was on fire. I was drifting in and out and recall reciting the chant I had said the night before, "I feel no pain, I have no pain, I am in perfect health!" About 2pm I regained consciousness to the point that I could see the clock on the wall at the foot of my bed. I was back in my room and the burning had subsided to the point that I could gain some composure. I buzzed for the nurse and what seemed like an eternity, but probably was about 5 minutes later a voice answered over the speaker. I asked for a pain shot and after it was administered, I drifted off again.

It was about 7:30pm when I again awoke. This time, I seemed to come out of my sleep fairly quickly and the burning had gone. I was awake, and there was a tray of food at my side. Slowly I sat up and to my surprise I had no onslaught of pain. Had the operation really taken place? Was I now complete? Would I wake up and come to the realization that this was all a dream? I lifted up the cover that had been placed up to my chest level. Between my legs I could see gauze bandages and a large feminine napkin. It had happened, I was now on my way to recovery!

Part VI: Back Again

I looked about the room still a little dazed. It was about 6:30am according to the clock on the wall at the foot of my bed and I was sore. I had slept on and off through the night but was awakened several times by nurses taking vital signs and checking on my condition. I was not in any great pain as I had heard others speak of but I couldn't seem to get very comfortable. My lower abdomen was numb as was the area between my legs and I could not sit up. I quickly learned the usage of the controls on the bed to raise my back into a semi-sitting position that allowed me to reach things on the bed table at my side. Once up, I noticed several flower bouquets on the table and others on the window sill. There were all very beautiful. I was glad to know that several people had thought enough to send me such beauty to look at during my recovery.

During those first few hours that morning I began to feel a different attitude. Others had spoke of many things that went through their minds after surgery but the one thought that I seemed to strongly feel at this time was a sense of rebirth. I felt that this was a true re-incarnation of my spirit and I was experiencing a tremendous warmth and happiness about it. Even little things such as the look and texture of my skin or the shape of my face were fascinating to study and behold. One might assume that I was drugged or hallucinating, but I think not. I felt as if I were a new person, a person with so much to explore and things to do. I had spent so much of the past few years preparing for this event that I had, in many ways, lost track of what was happening to me, to my body and to my mind. Now the event had taken place. I was complete, and I could now look on to being this new person and enjoying the life I was now to lead.

I adopted quickly to the hospital routine, breakfast at 8:00am, bath at about 9:30am, lunch at 12:15pm and dinner about 5:30pm. I was in no pain most of the time and by the second day after surgery, I only had an occasional "Darvacet" capsule. I had planned to do some reading and writing while in the hospital but as it turned out I spent much of my time drowsing or watching MTV.

The evening of the second night after surgery, I was gladdened to see my friend Kay arrive. It was about 9:30pm and I was surprised that the staff let her in but they did, and we had a nice visit. As a matter of fact she and I shared a Domino's Pizza about 10:30pm (we found out they deliver to the rooms at the hospital). The next morning she herself was admitted and we shared the room for a few days.

About the 5th day after surgery I was beginning to long to move around a little but I was still confined to my bed by doctor's orders. On this day they removed what I call my "Biber button" a wad of gauze attached to my pelvic bone via a wire entering my abdomen. It didn't hurt but it was the strangest sensation as it slipped out.

The next day my catheter was removed and I was told I could walk about and take a shower. Easier said than done. I was elated that I could move about freely but after several tries and about two or three hours all I could do was take a few steps around the room. just before dinner that evening, I did successfully make it to the shower room down the hall and had what was probably the most satisfying shower of my life. Not that it was any different that all the others I had taken but that I was able to move about on my own and take it.

A few days later, Kay and I were on our way back to Pueblo by car to catch our respective flights home. I was still very weak and at times thought I would faint but all went well and home I went. I still think quite a bit about those few days in that strange place and all that occurred there. That short period of time changed my outlook and life forever.

People ask me from time to time whether I would do it again, and was it all worth it. I immediately reply yes, I add that I do not want to do it again, but if I hadn't yet done it, I wouldn't think twice about going through the experience. For me it was right, I was doing what my conscience told me to do after some long soul searching and living in the role that I feel is right for me. I have given up much during this quest of the last 4 years or so and I regret the loss of some friends and family but I had to do it, I had to be that person I have felt I was inside since I was very young.

"I'd much rather be a woman than a man. Women can cry, they can wear cute clothes and they're first to be rescued off sinking ships". Gilda Radner

I do not know what the future will bring, or how I will feel 10 or 15 years down the road, but I am now experiencing the life that I so deeply wanted that I risked all to achieve it. I guess if you are willing to risk all, it's worth the risk. If you have second thoughts then you better not take such a journey until these doubts are resolved. Doubts are the flag that signals that this surgery may not be the answer to your inner conflicts. You need to dig deeper and understand the basis for these doubts, and possibly during that search you will resolve those inner conflicts.

In conclusion, I feel my conflicts were resolved through this experience and I hope that others will benefit from these writings about them. I went for it and now I look forward to the remainder of my life as I have always felt I should be, a woman.

The end of the beginning!

"Gilda Radner said that women were the first to get rescued off ships. She didn't say we had to drive the !@#$% ^&!!! lifeboat afterwards!!!"
(cartoon: Christine Wilson)

The following article was edited from a keynote address presented by George R. Brown, M.D., on June 9, 1990, at the 'Be All You Can Be' Weekend held in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Brown is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Department of Psychiatry, University of Texas Health Science Center, in San Antonio, Texas. For the past nine years Dr. Brown has worked with gender conflicted persons, and for the past several years has worked with the San Antonio based Boulton & Park Society.

The original presentation of Dr. Brown's address was based on a series of slides which we regret we were unable to reproduce in this transcript. However, we felt the content of Dr. Brown's address was important enough to present to you even without the visual aids. -- ED

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR "BE ALL WEEKEND 1990" PITTSBURGH, PA. 9 JUNE 90

By: George R. Brown, M.D.

I'd like to thank the "Be All" committee for allowing me to speak here today, in particularly my colleague Sheila Kirk, whom I had the good fortune of meeting at a conference on transsexualism last year. I consider it a true honor to be invited here, and I've looked forward to this opportunity for months now. The special treatment I have received from the "Be-All" committee is unparalleled in any conference I have spoken at, and you all have my vote for hostesses of the year.

I know some of you take significant risks to come to activities like these, which is why the out-of-town enrollment generally dwarfs the numbers from the local area. In the 9 years I have worked with, and learned from the cross-dressing community, I have gone out of my way to safeguard identities, always placing confidentiality above all else. I have been on active duty in the military throughout those years, and will continue to be for another twelve months, three weeks, and one day. As many of you are aware, the military frowns upon a lot of activities, not the least of which is associating with an unsavory, disorderly bunch of cross-dressers, so it is not without risk that I am here today.

Having said this, I will comply with at least one military regulation by stating the required disclaimer: The views expressed by me today are mine alone, and do not necessarily represent those of the department of defense or the U.S. Government, in fact I would be surprised if they did agree with me on most of what I will say.

My task today as a speaker is rather herculean, in that you, as an audience, are a highly diverse group, comprising crossdressers, significant others, helping professionals, and combinations of these categories. I've prepared this presentation with each of you in mind, and I will do my level best to please all of the people some of the time. If I accomplish that task, I will have achieved what Richard Docter did in his book, Transvestites And Transsexuals, as it has something for everybody, and I highly recommend it to you all as mandatory reading.

To that end, I plan to cover three general areas:

1. First, the concept of "psychiatric disorder" and what that means in psychiatric practice today. In this section, I will present for the first time my revised definition of transvestism.

2. Second, in recognition of Tri-Ess's wisdom for according wives full membership status earlier this year, I'll present preliminary research findings from my ongoing work with wives, and

3. Third, I'll describe briefly my study in progress of various aspects of transvestism and make a pitch for your support of, and participation in this important project.

[WHAT IS A DISORDER]

This definition is a modification of that found in the front of the little blue bible of psychiatry, the DSM-3-R (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disor-

ders, Third Edition, Revised). In this volume, it states clearly that a disorder must be a clinically significant syndrome associated with one or more of the three D's: Distress, Disability, or Daredeviling. Distress refers to self-reported symptoms, like anxiety, depression, too much drinking, etc. Disability can be considered in three areas: occupational, social, and the intrapersonal. Daredeviling refers to risk-taking behavior with a high likelihood of untoward consequences, for example getting injured or killed, losing one's job due to overtly inappropriate behavior, jeopardizing important relationships, or risking imprisonment.

[WHAT IS NOT A DISORDER]

These two D's, Defiance and Disagreement with society's norms, generally do not qualify as criteria by which a psychiatrist should be making diagnoses. Thomas Szasz, a psychiatrist/author at Syracuse, New York, wrote a controversial book in 1974 called "The Myth of Mental Illness"[1], wherein he expounds upon the tendency of some of us in the mental health disciplines to interpret social deviance as a priori evidence that a diagnoseable psychiatric illness is present. Mortimer Adler noted long ago, in 1937, that the practitioners of psychoanalysis "are trying to swallow everything in psychoanalysis."[2] I would like to explore this concept of diagnosis as it pertains to transvestism, and ask a rhetorical question of the profession:

Are we trying to bite off too large a piece of human behavior and make ourselves gluttons at the endless, all-you-can-eat salad bar of psychiatric diagnoses?

[DSM-3-R TV DX]

So let's belly up to the bar and take a helping from page 163 of the Blue Handbook. This is the verbatim definition of transvestism as it is currently applied by psychiatrists in the Western World. There are several critical things to note here: First, to be a transvestite, you must be a male, you must be heterosexual, and you must have at least a 6 month history of intense sexual urges and/or fantasies involving cross-dressing. So we have already excluded all women, drag queens, gay female impersonators, and anyone who has cross-dressed without erotic interest. The six month minimum is liberal enough. Under Criterion B., note that the diagnosis requires either acting on these urges to cross-dress or significant distress about having these urges, whether or not the man has ever cross-dressed in his entire life. You may be saying, "Let me get this straight (no pun intended): A guy who has never cross-dressed can get diagnosed as a transvestite, a drag queen who cross-dresses every day can't get diagnosed as a transvestite, and if I cross-dress once a week in the privacy of my own home and don't cause anyone, including myself, any problems at all, I have to get a major psychiatric diagnosis of transvestism if any psychiatrist ever lays eyes on me for any reason." It doesn't matter whether or not the cross-dresser meets the aforementioned criteria for a psychiatric disorder: Distress, Disability, or Daredeviling. The very presence of cross-dressing, as a minority behavior in our society, has been equated with major psychiatric disorder by my peers. Unfortunately, that is the sad state of affairs with respect to this definition. How many of you in this room believe in this definition and consider yourselves to have a major psychiatric disorder?

The last criterion specifically excludes transsexuals and folks with nontranssexual gender identity disorders.

[DEFINITION OF TV]

I would like to propose something a bit more enlightened for a modern definition of transvestism (note I did not say "diagnosis") based on what you, as a community, have taught me in the last 9 years. Let's read this and then examine its components: Transvestism is a complex solitary or social phenomenon found most often in males involving the use of culturally recognized opposite gender attire and accoutrements with affective, cognitive, and libidinal/sexual components. It often does not fulfill accepted criteria for "disorder" in modern psychiatric diagnostic systems.

[TV DEFINITION ADVANTAGES]

I have significantly broadened the definition to be more "purist" with respect to the word "transvestism", which of course literally means "to dress across", derived from latin roots. You have taught me, Richard Docter, and any other professionals willing to take the time to listen, that transvestism has at least two other major components besides the erotic or sexual aspects. I have called those components affective, meaning emotional, and cognitive, indicating the intellectual and identity aspects. Harry Benjamin once said, In 1966: "Taking the sex out of transvestism is like taking the music out of opera."[3] Certainly the sexual aspects of dressing cannot be ignored, but limiting our observations to the realm of the erotic, like the DSM-3-R definition of transvestic fetishism, ignores the data that have been collected by researchers such as myself and Richard Docter.

[ADULT MOTIVATIONS FOR CROSS-DRESSING]

As we see from Richard's work, this is a partial listing of adult motivations for cross-dressing as reported by participants in his study. The cognitive and affective components would include most of the top six

motivations here; sexual arousal was listed as one of the least important reasons for cross-dressing by TV's in their later years.

[GO BACK BY 2 TO MODERN TV DEFINITION]

Having presented for your consideration a definition and not a diagnosis, is it fair to assume that, as the rebel psychiatrist I appear to be, I do not believe that transvestism can be a disorder? We all know TV's who cross-dress destructively; the executive who cruises straight bars trying to pass as a woman and winds up with broken ribs, a crushed face, and a severely bruised groin.

[GO FORWARD BY 3: X-DRESSING IN THE MILITARY]

The 6 foot 4 inch, 230 pound military officer who dresses near base and, lo and behold, is apprehended by the security police. And the compulsively dressing TV who shuns all contact with the outside world, having lost all friends, family, and spouse not because he dresses, per se, but because he spends all of his waking hours reading TV erotica, going to adult bookstores, and living in his own little, unemployed world of lonely TV fantasies. Clearly, transvestism can be a disorder, if it satisfies the basic groundrules mentioned earlier. By the same token, masturbation can be a disorder, depending on the parameters of the experience in a given individual. In 1886, Dr. Richard Von Krafft-Ebing published a now classic volume in latin called Psychopathia Sexualis, wherein he ascribed all sorts of "psychical and moral degenerations" to the practice of masturbation, described as pathological whenever and wherever it was engaged in.[4] That was the prevailing thinking of the best scientists alive in the late 1800's. Only careful observation, critical reevaluation of this dogma, and the courage of some researchers near the turn of the century to challenge the scientific establishment let to the exclusion of masturbation from our list of "definitely disordered behaviors". I suggest the time has come for the same reappraisal of cross-dressing by modern mental health professionals.

[UNDERSTANDING AND COMPROMISE]

My message, therefore, to the mental health professions is the same as the message I deliver in various ways to the women who attend my support groups in Texas: Understanding and compromise need to replace ignorance and rigidity. Rigidly approaching an individual as disordered solely because he cross-dresses is a product of ignorance, for the most part. I have seen, time and again in the significant others I work with, major inroads to compromise and salvation of relationships due to greater understanding and a willingness to combat ignorance.

[TARGETS OF CHANGE]

But spouses of TV's are not the only group who may be uninformed about "matters transvestailis". They reflect the general societal trend toward misinformation and bias about cross-dressing and cross-dressers. Helping professionals, being part of our society, have 25 years of bias and training by an unforgiving society before they slap any degrees up on their walls. The topic of cross-dressing is, at best, covered in a cursory fashion in the training programs of psychiatrists and psychologists, and general medical doctors almost never have any exposure to these issues in their residencies. Needless to say, family and friends need a crash course before they can be supportive of those who cross-dress or those who are in relationships with cross-dressers. And, something that I see often from my vantage point as a psychiatrist, the attitude of the TV about himself and his behavior almost always needs to undergo significant revision before he can accept himself and hold his head high while wearing a lace victorian collared blouse or tasteful chiffon evening gown. This process of self acceptance is often facilitated by contact with a hopeful knowledgeable mental health professional. Unfortunately, too many of you have paid for the privilege of providing on-the-job training for uninformed psychologists and psychiatrists, a fact that I am painfully aware of as a teacher of medical students and psychiatry residents.

[RESISTANCE TO CHANGE]

Ignorance has a lot of allies, and a powerful network in place to uphold the status quo. Raising males in our culture is fraught with anti-female, anti-sissy, anti-emotional bias that seeks to keep that which is male distinct and separate from that which is female; to cross the boundary, one tastes the forbidden fruit. In the world of the developing boy and early teen, to be different is to be weird, to be bad, to be unmasculine. They are taught that "the first order of business of being a man is: don't be a woman", to quote Robert Stoller from UCLA.[5] The power of the concept of "normalcy" cannot be overstated. One of the most common questions I am asked by any patient is: "Am I normal, doctor?".

Misinformation certainly keeps ignorance alive and well and serves up a powerful resistance to change. The media have traditionally been the greatest enemy of people with alternative interests or lifestyles, including cross-dressers.

[TV BAD PRESS]

Here is one, of many, examples of the press casting TV's as dangerous deviants who are out there plotting bank robberies and molesting small children, or committing both crimes simultaneously.

[TV IN NEWS, T PARTY]

I'm delighted to say that recently I've seen a number of favorable, or at least neutral, approaches to cross-dressing as best exemplified in San Antonio by this front page article covering the Texas T-Party in the San Antonio Business Journal. This was good, nonsensational coverage of the "more than 200 businessmen" who converged on a conference center in town. If this can happen in South Texas, it can happen almost anywhere!

[MECHANISMS OF CHANGE]

This demonstrates the powerful influence that all of the mass media can have to effect societal change via education in two ways: The overt and the covert. Factually, the media can dispel myths like "TV's are all child molesting homosexual exhibitionists." But the implicit message in reports like that covering the T-Party is that these people are exactly that, people, who may not be so different from the readers and merit greater attention and understanding. Books, both in the lay press and the medical literature are certainly critical components in any campaign to educate and stamp out ignorance, and again I will applaud the efforts of Richard Docter, and mention Peggy Rudd's book entitled "My Husband Wears My Clothes"[6] and Mariette Pathy Allen's new photoessay called "Transformations: Cross-Dressers And Those Who Love Them"[7] as other fine examples of groundbreaking works for your community.

The unfortunate thing about writing books on this subject, in my experience, is that the authors manage to do a wonderful job of educating TV's and those professionals who are already aware of cross-dressing issues. Richard and I have talked about this, and it is sad that the helping professionals who most need to read his book are those who are least likely to know it exists. My approach over the years has been to attack the ignorance issue from within the established medical community by bringing the information to the doctors, medical students, and psychiatrists in training by writing papers for the mainstream medical and psychiatric press and allowing the mailman (mailperson) to infiltrate their mailboxes so the material will be right under their noses. For example, I'm happy to report that a paper I wrote on partners of cross-dressers will be coming out this month in a medical journal that will be going to over 130,000 physicians and medical libraries in North America and Europe. Eight weeks ago I was fortunate enough to have my review paper on the gender dysphoria syndromes published in the most widely circulated psychiatric journal in the U.S. This is the only review article ever written on the subject, and readership will be high. I'm not telling you these things to toot my own horn, but to let you know that slow progress is being made behind the scenes in ways that you may not be aware of.

Demonstrations certainly can work toward change for stigmatized groups, for example the "act up" group and their flamboyant, theatrical protests against the government red tape surrounding new AIDS treatments. Demonstrations can be a two edged sword, and I'm not sure what effect 50,000 TV's marching on Washington would have in gaining equal bathroom rights, so I'm not a strong advocate of this approach.

Politization of issues can lead to change, for example the ACLU support for transsexual and transvestite rights to nondiscriminatory employment, using the courts as tools to effect policy and thinking. I had the opportunity to work with the ACLU as an expert witness on behalf of a transsexual officer in the military. I testified against the government's case in their attempts to discharge him after he was photographed by a neighbor while cross-dressed in off-duty time.[8]

There are also medical politics that culminate in certain behaviors being included or excluded from official diagnostic manuals. The effect of non-inclusion is the same as saying that the behavior in question is not a disorder, much as what occurred with the deletion of homosexuality from the Diagnostic Manual in 1973. In December 1972, if you were homosexual, you had a major psychiatric disorder which was virtually untreatable. In January 1973, you were "cured" because you were officially proclaimed to be practicing an "alternative lifestyle." It is well known that the political influence of gay psychiatrists within organized medicine and psychiatry helped effect this official change in thinking and diagnosis. There are no similar organized efforts on the part of cross-dressing physicians or psychiatrists to effect some of the changes in diagnostic thought mentioned earlier in this presentation, so alterations will be slow in coming. The value of research finding cannot be overstated in that regard. I just attended the committee meeting in New York that is responsible for reviewing the diagnostic criteria for transvestism for the next edition of the official American Manual due out in 1993. They made it clear that no changes will be made in the current criteria in the absence of research findings that support any suggested changes. Expert opinion is no longer sufficient as it was in past

revisions, which is probably a step in the right direction because look where we are now! Therefore, if changes are to occur that could be beneficial to the cross-dressing community, the small handful of researchers working with you desperately need your support to complete studies.

[TITLE: SPOUSES OF TV'S]

As poorly understood as TV's are in the medical literature, the spouses and significant others are even more mysterious and have managed to evade most researchers for decades. It's not because the wives have hidden from the researchers, but the other way around.

[STUDIES OF TV SPOUSES]

This slide lists the majority of published papers in the psychiatric literature examining issues relevant to spouses and significant others of cross-dressers. (slide unavailable) I'll use "spouses" throughout my presentation for the sake of convenience, but please understand that I am referring to any woman in a committed relationship with a TV.

The first paper listed was called "Transvestites' Women", written in 1967 by Robert Stoller, a psychoanalyst.[9] When I started my first wives' support group in Cincinnati in 1986, I went to the library to see what others had written about this topic. I read this paper and became incensed at how wives were described as "malicious male-haters", "symbiotes", and "moral masochists", especially in view of the fact that the author had virtually no data to support his pejorative labels. My experience was markedly different than Dr. Stoller's, so I wrote a rebuttal to his paper entitled "Transvestites' Women Revisited", describing my experience with the Cincinnati group. To summarize the studies to date, all have serious flaws of one sort or another. My study had too few women, Richard's chapter on spouses involved only 35 women, 21 of whom were interviewed, and the largest study to date, Bullough and Weinberg's 1986 questionnaire study involved no interview data and only 70 women. So needless to say, there is a tremendous need for greater participation by wives.

[PRELIMINARY RESEARCH FINDINGS]

I would like to share with you some preliminary research findings from my ongoing study of wives and their concerns.

[STUDY PARAMETERS]

I began my work on this topic in 1986, and it continues as an unfunded endeavor. I would like to acknowledge the governing Board of Boulton & Park, the sponsors of the Texas T-Party, for their tremendous support and assistance with both of my studies.

All of this work has been done in nonclinical settings and only one of the participants has been treated by me as a patient. The sources of the data are diverse, with about 2/3 having been seen in face-to-face encounters, individually or in group settings.

[STATES REPRESENTED]

Half of the current participants are from the Midsouth; there are significant gaps in New England and the East Coast in general.

[DEMOGRAPHICS]

I can report on the first 31 ladies today; their average age was 39 years old, nearly all were caucasian, and of average height. 35% were over 150 pounds, and I'm not sure if that differs from any other group of 39 year old women in the U.S.

[DEMOGRAPHICS -2-]

Half the women were Protestant; 77% were married and living with their TV husband at the time of their participation; several were engaged to, living with, or dating a TV.

[DEMOGRAPHICS -3-]

One of the criticisms of prior studies of TV's is that a disproportionate number of participants are highly educated, financially established men. So it should come as no surprise that their wives, as a group, are well-educated, with half of all participants having earned at least one post-high school degree.

Of note is the fact that over 60% are first born, which is about twice what one would expect if I had randomly interviewed 39 year old women off the street. Being first born is traditionally associated with higher achievement and good self-esteem, which is at odds with the earlier studies by Stoller and Wise that describe wives as having very poor self-esteem.

Another finding that has never been reported by others is that nearly 1 in 4 wives are childless for a variety of reasons, including choosing not to have children. This merits further study.

[CHILDREN OF TV'S]

Two thirds of the couples are caring for one or more children, with a total of 20 children under 18 still residing in 11 homes, which is 35% of the households in the study. The families were split on the issue of

telling the kids, with 55% of the children knowing of their dad's cross-dressing.

[RELATIONSHIP DURATION]

The women in this study had been in a committed relationship with a TV for an average of 15 years, with a wide range (1-39 years). Of those who were legally married, 3/4 were in their first and only marriage.

[WIVES KNOWLEDGE OF X-DRESSING]

As we are all aware, there are basically three ways a wife can find out about her partner's cross-dressing.: Before engagement/marriage, after marriage in a non-crisis setting, and after marriage by surprise.

[GO BACK 1 TO WIVES KNOWLEDGE]

Only a minority, 35%, of spouses were aware before the point of no return; 39% were calmly told by their husbands, and 19% endured the Gomer Pyle approach to sharing this information: "SURPRISE, SURPRISE, SURPRISE!" The respondents, on average, knew of their partner's dressing for almost 12 years.

[GO FORWARD 2: FAMILY HISTORIES]

55% of the women had family members with psychiatric disorders, nearly half of which were alcoholic fathers who may or may not have received treatment. Interestingly, none of the women reported having had drug or alcohol problems themselves, whereas 13% of their partners did. Keep in mind that the base rate of these problems during one's lifetime in the U.S. is 15.7%.[10]

One in 10 of the women were involved in some type of counseling.

[PERCEPTIONS OF MARITAL PROBLEMS]

How did the women perceive their marriages? Well, about one in five reported they had trouble-free, idyllic relationships with their TV partner. I know, you men are all sitting there thinking, "I'll bet that was my wife's response!". For the other 81%, I divided their responses into three categories. 13% reported problems that had nothing to do with cross-dressing; 45% reported their problems had everything to do with cross-dressing, and 23% had both types of issues.

[TV-RELATED PROBLEMS]

Another way to look at these figures is by subtracting out all the "Barbie and Ken" ideal relationships and finding that 56% of marital problems reported were exclusively related to cross-dressing issues. The top 7 problems are listed in rank order here, with #1 being just cross-dressing in general, #2 the issue of secrecy/exposure, #3 concerns about hormones and sex reassignment surgery, #4 sexual difficulties, #5 and #6 related to overindulgence in cross-dressing activities and wardrobes to the exclusion of the wife, and #7 concern about the children finding out. These results are not remarkably different from those reported by Richard in his book, so I won't belabor the point here.

[WIFE TOLERANCE OF X-DRESSING]

I asked the question: "Do you think you should be more or less tolerant or accepting of your partner's cross-dressing?" Just over half said more, 10% thought they were spoiling their TV and said less, and 26% gave the Goldilocks response of "just right."

[X-DRESSING IN WIFE'S PRESENCE]

How often do wives see their husband's fully dressed? Nearly 1 in 4 see their husband dressed on a daily basis; about half more than once per week on average. The modal value was 1 to 4 times per month. 16% know of their husband's cross-dressing but rarely or never have seen him dressed.

[IMPOTENCE]

This is the last finding I can share at this time, and it is an important one. Although it is not a specific criterion for transvestism, many psychiatrists believe that all TV's experience erectile difficulties if they cannot use one or more articles of female clothing during sexual activity with their partners, hence the full name of "transvestic fetishism" in the Diagnostic Manual. Many men will not admit to this problem, so I asked the women if their spouse had problems with impotence and whether these problems, if present, were in any way related to cross-dressing. Nearly 1/4 of the TV's had at least intermittent problems with getting or maintaining an erection, but a minority of these, only 10% of the men, had problems that could be traced to not being able to use a fetishistic object or article of clothing during sexual activity. That means that the vast majority of TV's do not appear to have the sexual limitations that most fetishists have, which again calls into question the validity of the current diagnosis. Clearly, I need more participants in my studies to verify this important finding.

[TV WIVES: WHAT WE KNOW]

By way of summary, let's look at what we know (or think we know) about spouses and what we don't know but would like to find out. First, it is clear that

few, if any, women know anything about cross-dressing before they find themselves in a relationship with a TV. It seems that the earlier in a relationship a women is told, the higher the likelihood that the relationship will either work out or cut its losses early. The "Gomer Pyle method" of informing a loved one is ill-advised and often sets the stage for hostility that may never resolve. We all know the twelve dozen reasons why some men choose not to tell their partners, and I won't get into those now.

Fourth, we would like to believe that any women has the capacity to be an accepting, supportive so-called "A-wife" in Prince terminology[11], but I think that is a fantasy and does not acknowledge the diversity present in women even after they have been fully informed. Wives are not like spandex: one size does not fit all.

On the other side of the coin, however, is the fact that TV's more often than not seem to underestimate their wives and what they can handle, usually out of fear of rejection.

Number 6, we all can appreciate: Lack of information and support leads to suffering for both TV's and their spouses, and the value of education and support groups cannot be overstated. I have seen a tremendous amount of healing occur in support groups for women, and people often drive 3 hours one way just to attend a group.

[WIVES: WHAT WE DON'T KNOW]

Now that I've created the illusion that we're smart and know what's going on, let me quickly dispel that notion and point out what we don't know. First, no one, including myself, has ever studied spouses who have left a TV. Are there any such women? If so, where are they? Could anything have been done to save these relationships? The questions are endless, and the difficulties in learning from such a group may be insurmountable.

Second, I've presented today only preliminary data on a relatively small group of wives, so all of this is subject to change and doesn't necessarily qualify as fact or knowledge.

Third is a challenge to the cross-dressing community as well as the mental health care professionals who work with you. How do we reach, and help, the 25-30% of spouses who live with daily hostility and disgust about cross-dressing and all that it stands for, while continuing to stay in their marriages to TV's? This is a tough one, and more work needs to be done here.

And last, there are mental health professionals who sincerely want to meet your needs in spite of their relative naivete regarding your world. Many can learn fast, and if people like Richard and me do our jobs, they will have ready access to legitimate information about transvestism, spouses of cross-dressers, and the issues that concern you both. Working together, I believe we can conquer ignorance and rigidity and work toward understanding and compromise on many levels.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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DAWN'S TRIP
(OR, AN ADVENTURE FOR "BIG RED")

by: Dawn Law (ME-0389)

Cindy had been telling me for weeks, "you set it up, and I'll go". The one week we both had free finally arrived, and we were on our way. It was an opportunity for me to wear my favorite clothes while traveling with a friend who is one of the best makeup and modeling instructors on the East coast. She had never been west of New Jersey, and I had never played an extended feminine role this completely. We were both so excited driving from Maine, that we arrived at I.F.G.E. headquarters outside Boston in what seemed like minutes.

Merissa returned from jogging (really!) a few minutes after we arrived looking like she would probably die before getting us to the airport. A few phone calls, however, had amazing restorative powers. Yvonne rode with us to Logan on her way to join Dan for an interview the following day on the Joan Rivers Show. It seems like through Yvonne's efforts (always outstanding) and my trip (just fun) crossdressing would soon receive a lot of intentional exposure.

While our goal was California, we were using a discount fly and drive package routing us through Las Vegas. Our plan was to spend two nights in Vegas and drive from there. Our continuing excitement was causing some misadventures (I thought I had lost one of the airline tickets as we were checking in, not remembering that the baggage clerk had it). Fortunately, we had time for a drink before boarding. The hyper way Cindy and I were both acting I'm sure left her with serious concerns over our welfare.

Boston is a mature, cosmopolitan city. Because of this, the efforts of I.F.G.E., the Tiffany Club and many individuals, it is rare when a practiced attempt at convincing crossdressing attracts prolonged stares or comment. We were to find that this isn't true in some other parts of the country.

Cindy had added considerable polish to my appearance during the past year. At over six feet, though, any red head is going to attract some attention. Cindy gave me the confidence to enjoy it.

The trip to Vegas was long and uneventful. People travelling by air tend to mind their own business and

'Big Red' does Disney

avoid any type of confrontation. I think the reason is, that if you start something, you can't escape. People that like to degrade others are typically cowards. I always feel particularly comfortable flying. Some friends in the business recently told me that air flight by "readable" crossdressers is becoming fairly commonplace. Way to go, girls! Keep your standards high! By the time Cindy and I reached Vegas, we were tired, but euphoric. I had not been able to find a way around presenting a male driver's license to Alamo for the car rental. I decided to take the frontal approach by presenting a big, genuine smile with the comment, "I look a little different in the picture". The clerk scanned the picture and smiled back with the comment, "You look a lot better now". I agreed, and that's the way I felt.

There is very little complementary that I can say about Vegas. Big and gaudy physically, it is attended by tourists that stare at everything, moving or not. Vegas tourists seem to be of limited exposure to city life. While I received considerable attention, confrontation never occurred.

Walking painfully (in new shoes) through the Mirage Casino, an incident occurred that I have recalled frequently since. I apparently became the center of attention for two male children of about 8 and 12, and their parents. As I approached, the younger boy, with a slightly too loud voice said, "...you mean a man dressed up as a woman?", at which he received a punch on the arm and a hushed comment from his brother. While the younger boy looked confused by this, his brother's expression showed surprise and interest. There was nothing negative in his expression, and no clue as to what caused his quick reaction. I hope and suspect my appearance was positive for him.

The standard teen method of investigating a suspicion of crossdressing is to ask the suspect, "Do you have the time?" An interesting variation occurred while waiting for our car at the Mirage Casino. A woman left her companion to remark, "that's a lovely dress you're wearing". I, of course, had to reply, "Thank you", which undoubtedly resulted in her companion being informed, "I told you so". No matter. It's a lovely dress and Cindy said it looked great on me. If my new shoes hadn't caused mr to walk very awkwardly, I doubt that she would have been suspicious.

The shows at vegas are still great and, in my view, one of the few justifications for the visit. A second reason is the discounted air fare. The third is Serge's wig shop. Catering to the "show girls" (they wanted to know which one I was in) and others' desperate attempts at glamour, Serge's is a thriving, well-stocked store and a crossdresser's delight. It is run by Betty and Tish, who are wonderfully helpful and knowledgeable. No one leaves unless they and their staff are satisfied with the selection. I tried about a dozen wigs from their unbelievable inventory before we all agreed. The other customers joined in the critique each time I reappeared in a new fashion. What fun!

The drive to L.A. from Vegas isn't bad - about four hours through the Mohave desert to downtown. Then we got lost on the freeways (did someone write a song about this?). Two more hours, and several phone calls later, we realized that we had no idea where our hotel was located and they had no idea how to get us from our phone booth to their hotel. We canceled the reservation and checked into a nearby Hilton.

That night, we had dinner with Jim Bridges and Anthony. Jim joined us the following day for a tour of the city, and a wonderful lunch in Long Beach. By this time, Cindy and I had vowed to move to California well before winter set in again. Returning to North Hollywood, we had a blow out on the freeway. Jim had the spare "donut" on in a few minutes (it's nice to have a man around when you need one) and we crawled over to Alamo for a new tire. Their service was impeccable in every way!

Back at our hotel, I could tell something was bothering Cindy. When she ordered drinks from room service, I sensed some serious talk coming. For the past few days, she began, she had purposely walked apart from me on occasion to study reactions of the people we passed. I was, she said, attracting a lot of attention punctuated by stares, smiles and some giggles. We had eaten breakfast separately that morning, when she heard the busboys making some derogatory comments. Cindy said this type of attention was making her uncomfortable and she was feeling like she could not deal with much more of it. Since she thought I looked good, these comments were also undermining her professional confidence.

It looked like the party was over, but our airfare tickets didn't allow us to return for another four days and there was too much left to do. I also had no male clothes with me and no alternative but to restore Cindy's confidence. We talked for a long while. I understood Cindy's feelings because, of course, I had to deal with the same issues. My comments addressed several issues as we talked and I was a little surprised by the convictions I had never before expressed.

First, any red head over six feet tall is going to attract a lot of attention, particularly when her companion is a foot shorter. Second, I have always been sensitive to other people's reactions. I now feel comfortable and well-accepted in a wide variety of casual

and business situations, even though it must be apparent I have adopted a new gender. Practically everyone enjoys a non-threatening illusion. In some cases, I know I was the best looking "woman" seen by some all day.

Next, I tried reminding Cindy that with 10-15 million people in this country, with gender-related personal issues, perhaps 25% gay or lesbian and the rest into God knows what, it wasn't likely that I would startle or offend anyone. Most, in fact, would probably respect my candor. We spent some time talking about the negative things disturbing Cindy. I could only identify two categories of people who might be openly hostile: very insecure people and drunks. In the first instance, a few people have a strong desire to build their egos at the expense of someone else. Children frequently do this until they finally learn to respect other people's lifestyles. Only a few retain the need to bully and degrade at any opportunity. Fortunately, they are invariably also cowards who will avoid confrontation. An accident by an incontinent person, one with an unusual deformity or a punk dress style will all draw the same type of sneering comment or forced laugh from the observant, insecure individual. These people make it difficult to be different until you learn who they are and how to ignore them.

In the second case, drunks can be nasty, doubly so when in groups. A little common sense will usually remove this as an issue.

My final message to Cindy was that I'm happy with who I am. Invariably, people either approve of, ignore or tolerate me and I'm not about to let a few, whom I have no reason to respect, coerce me into seeking their approval.

There was no doubt that Cindy heard me and understood my logic. Accepting my position was more difficult. She asked to be alone that evening to review her feelings. Dinner by myself that night was not memorable (I inadvertently selected a restaurant whose regular chef was on vacation). I also had ample time to dwell on the worst possible scenarios for the remainder of our trip. My mood was rapidly deteriorating. After dinner, I stopped into the Queen Mary, but the seedy atmosphere didn't feel good. After meeting some of the locals, I left for the Baked Potato to hear some jazz. The club was small and jammed. I had to stand through the first set, conspicuously a head taller than most around me. The music was great, but I began getting progressively more attention from one jerk otherwise totally absorbed in drinking and mauling his female companion. Still upset by my conversation earlier with Cindy, I finally lost my cool and slugged him. I regretted the violence, but the jerk backed off immediately, and no one in the crowd acted like they had noticed anything. It was a good lesson for me that I don't expect to ever have repeated. Regardless, the rest of the night was great.

Cindy is a wonderful, sensitive person. The next morning, she read my mood immediately. After some vigorous prying, I told her I had no idea how to deal with her concerns or how to handle the rest of the trip. "Don't worry about that", she said. I thought about what you said and agree with you. No one should be able to influence me like that. It's a good lesson for me about life and that won't be a problem for me again". Wow! If I hadn't been so happy, I would have cried.

The rest of the trip is a blur of good meals and enjoyment of a good friends' company. One last visit to the Tropicana on the way to the airport was a great climax. As I wandered with a Martini past some idle baccarat croupiers, several whistles were followed by the call - "hey, big red!". I, of course, loved it!

On the trip back, I calculated that Cindy was young enough to be my granddaughter. I thanked her for trusting me to treat her that way. Yvonne picked us up at the airport at 1:30 A.M.. Another great friend. God, I felt lucky - and still do.

- end -

Introducing My Wife to BE ALL '90 or Dorothy in the Land of Oz, Part II

by Nancy Cole (KS-2189)

"Sometimes this struggle to adapt (to the husband's crossdressing), asks more of the couple than they have to give and the pattern of growing apart is seen. For the others, the stress of transvestism has been converted into an opportunity for personal growth, and both partners gain individuality along with the strengthening of the marriage."

-Richard Docter, PhD, from his book 'TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS'

Dealing with crossdressing and marriage is no easy matter. All too often we find that when the issue is addressed in either a study or a publication, the story falls into one of two categories, both of which are extremes. The first is when the wife is Gung-ho and believes that crossdressing has not only made the marriage stronger, but helps keep the world safe for democracy. The other extreme, the dark side of the force, is where crossdressing was identified as the death knell of a long and happy relationship. Serious efforts to address this issue are frustrated by a natural desire of most couples to ignore the issue ("You can dress as you like, just don't let me see you or expect me to help or participate."), an effort to keep from "airing our dirty linen in public," or, simple fear of the unknown ("If I see him dressed, what will it do to my image of him as a man and my self-image as a woman?").

The purpose of this piece is not to address the big issue at hand or to provide a solution. I have too few brain cells to deal with such weighty matters. Instead, this is a simple story, a true story about my wife's introduction to Nancy and the paraculture. The background to this story is the BE ALL gathering held in Pittsburgh in June 1990. So as to give the illusion of being a worthy effort, I'll pause throughout the story and point out where I felt I did something smart, (don't hold your breath waiting for these), and where I made an error in judgement (FUBAR).

BACKGROUND

Before we get into the main event, it is necessary to provide you with a little history. I have been a crossdresser all my life. Like many of you, I didn't know for the longest time what I was dealing with, and kept "HER" in the closet while I sallied forth in the world to be a man's man. Along the way, I met a girl who became my friend, then my lover, and finally, my wife. At the time of marriage, and for the first seven years, the desire to crossdress never left me. On rare occasions, when I was home alone, I would dress for a short period, but never went out and never wrote or talked to anyone about it. I was as far into the closet as anyone could get.

That state of affairs continued until 1980, when, for reasons I have long forgotten, I felt the need to tell my wife. I'll not bore you with that story right now. What is important is that we went through two phases. In the first, my wife agreed to let me dress at home, provided that the children didn't see me or were told. I readily agreed to this. Fortunately, phase one lasted only a few months. The reason it did is understandable. I fell into the old pitfall that too many crossdressers do; I over did it, and failed to consider my wife's feelings.

Now, I stated that it was fortunate that phase one was short. What happened was that my wife and I renegotiated. In effect, she respected my need/desire to dress, but she could not, at that time participate. As a solution, she agreed to let me join an organization for crossdressers. Enter Tri-Ess and phase two. This phase has lasted nine years, with me going from organization to organization as Nancy began to journey out of the closet to develop, discover and grow. During this period, discussion of my crossdressing between my wife and I was infrequent. I was careful to keep things in balance, while my wife was careful to keep from offending me.

These attitudes were slow to change. Key to the change was the recognition by my wife that rather than diminishing me as a person, my crossdressing had made me a better, more complete person. The fact that I was more attuned to her feelings, could understand some of the issues that women face, and developed a taste in fashions and style that resulted in a better wardrobe for her, (and of course me), helped a great deal. The final element that aided her acceptance was her observation of the effect crossdressing, or lack thereof, had on me. She told me on several occasions that when I did crossdress, I was happier and more relaxed.

By the end of phase two, we were shopping together, discussing fashions, and even traded and shared make-up and clothes, but my wife did not see me dressed during this period. We kept our clothes in the same closet and helped each other pick out outfits, but there it ended; until BE ALL.

Starting in 1989, I began attending some of the national events. The Texas Tea Party '89, was my first, followed by Fantasia '89, The Tea Party again in February 1990, and the IFGE convention in March 1990. That I enjoyed these affairs and was becoming more and more involved with the paraculture, was becoming more and more obvious to my wife. We discussed the events and crossdressing in general. During the course of these discussions, I showed her pictures of the events, including those taken of me while dressed. It was my way of opening the door, a little.

Originally, I had no intention of going to BE ALL. What changed my mind was the fact that my family was going to be back east to visit relatives in the Old States, to include Pennsylvania, at the same time BE ALL was scheduled. Rather than stay at home by myself, I decided to go. It was only after I had sent in my initial registration and saw my wife's itinerary that I thought of having her join me in Pittsburgh. After careful consideration, I suggested that she leave the children with her parents while she flew out and joined me in Pittsburgh for the weekend. Much to my surprise, she accepted. Part of the reason she agreed to come was out of curiosity; she wanted to see what I did at these things and if she could handle being with me when I was dressed. Besides, her sister-in-law, who was going through a messy divorce, lived in Pittsburgh and my wife wanted to visit her and her baby.

With that acceptance came a feeling of both joy and apprehension. Joy, that she was willing to try it again (i.e. being with me when I was dressed), and fear that she wouldn't be able to handle me dressed, BE ALL, or both. But we both were committed After nine years, the issue was being brought forth again for another vote.

IN THE BEGINNING

From the start, I knew this wasn't going to be easy, especially since my wife was not only going to have to deal with me, but also all the other BE ALL participants.

SMART MOVE #1: To help her deal with this, I provided her with some of the best information I could on wives and crossdressers. I gave her Peggy J. Rudd's book MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES, and Richard Docter's book TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS to read. This allowed her to prepare herself mentally. Rudd's book was especially helpful, since Rudd was a woman dealing with the same problem my wife was.

SMART MOVE #2: In arranging for the trip, we timed it so that I would arrive on Wednesday and she on Thursday. This allowed me to register at the hotel and the convention, review the program and see who was there already. I was especially interested in people who would be able to help me with my wife. That part of the plan went well. This, however, resulted in the need to arrange for transportation for her to the hotel. There were several options available. I could have left her to her own devices (big potential for FUBAR here). I could have had the BE ALL transportation pick her up (more potential FUBAR, since it would be a stranger AND possibly a crossdresser picking her up). Or, I could rent a car and pick her up myself. Of the three, picking her up myself seemed

like the best idea. She readily accepted this option. This decision, however, led into FUBAR #2.

On arriving in Pittsburgh on Wednesday night, I decided to scope out the lay of the land at the airport for the next day's pick up. This was, I felt, important, since A) she was arriving on another airline, and B) I would be coming back to the airport dressed as Nancy, a real TV first. I didn't leave the airport that night until I knew where I would park, the door I would need to use, what gate she was arriving at, etc., etc., etc.

The next day, I did my best, dressing and making-up so as not to draw attention to myself at the airport. I also allowed what I thought was plenty of time for the drive to the airport. FUBAR #1: Rather than checking the time of my wife's arrival before I left the hotel, I checked after I arrived at the airport. Therefore, instead of arriving there ten minutes before the plane arrived, I reached the gate with 55 minutes to spare! A momentary flutter of panic struck me as I realized that I had almost an hour to wait while every person who ever traveled to Pittsburgh had an opportunity to inspect me. Finding the most isolated seat, I sat for a moment and start to wait for either my wife or the Pittsburgh vice squad to arrive.

After ten minutes of sitting in isolation, cautiously looking about to see what everyone else was doing, I was overcome by the urge to visit the necessary room. I thought about suppressing the urge, but decided, "What the ____! You've made it this far". So I got up, found the nearest ladies room and did what had to be done. Having survived that ordeal, I went to the bookstand, bought a newspaper and a Coke and went back to my seat. Throughout this whole adventure, I never detected a ripple in the force, resulting in a real boost to my self-confidence.

When the plane arrived, I moved to the gate and placed myself so that I could see all the passengers coming off and they would be able to see me (here's where the boost of self-confidence came into play). It was only after I saw my wife, and she failed to recognize me, that I realized that I had made an error. FUBAR #2: I assumed that my wife knew I would be dressed when I picked her up at the airport. She never thought to ask and I never thought to volunteer that morsel of information (it's only at moments like this that I remember what the first three letters of 'assume' stand for). As she walked past me, I suddenly realized I needed to do something to get her attention, and not everyone else's. As softly and as sweetly as I could, I called her name. FUBAR #3: I was wearing an outfit and a new wig that she had never seen in any of my photos.

When she finally picked me out, there was a momentary pause. What could have been a real show-stopping disaster passed. Going up to her, I greeted her, took her carry-on bag, and proceeded to lead her to the baggage claim area. SMART MOVE #3: I didn't touch her or greet her as I normally would have (i.e., a hug and a kiss). Instead, I let her set the pace, and followed her lead in conversation and action. By this time, I had self-confidence in presenting myself as Nancy in public. My wife was just out of the gate, so to say, in being with her husband while he was wearing a dress. (Two days later, during our postmortem discussion of the weekend, my wife told me that picking her up dressed was probably the best thing I could have done. She admitted that by my doing so, she was confronted with the issue right from the beginning).

The drive to the hotel was uneventful. She talked about what the kids had done, what she had done at her parents house, and how all the relatives were doing. At the hotel, we went straight to the room. SMART MOVE #4: We paused for a while in the hotel room where I allowed my wife to mentally regroup and get used to seeing me dressed. We did not go rushing off to meet people or to participate in anything. We just talked, allowing the conversation to slowly turn from the family news forum to the inevitable, "Well, what's the program?"

As she had not had lunch, we decided to go down to the small cafe at the hotel and have lunch. That she was nervous was obvious. Again, by this time, I had been out in public as Nancy and was used to going into a restaurant. As before, I allowed my wife to set the pace and tone of conversation and followed her lead. As it was mid-afternoon, the lunch crowd was gone, and mercifully, the hotel staff was cooperative and courteous, conducting business as usual. SMART MOVE #5: Since we were in the hotel, I had no doubt the staff and other patrons knew we were with the BE ALL gathering. People looked, but did not stare. We had our lunch and they went about their business. The fact that we were in mixed company (BE ALL people, hotel staff and regular customers), had a calming effect on my wife, since nobody batted an eye.

After lunch, we returned to the room, where my wife took a nap. I left her in the room and blundered about the BE ALL concessions for a while. SMART MOVE #6: Sleep is a wonderful way of dealing with stress. It allows the brain to sort out new data and information, as well as to prepare for future input. In effect, I gave my wife some time alone to deal with the new situation. Besides, the time allowed me to indulge myself as I tried on dresses (I bought two!).

"DAS BOOT"

Back in the room, more adjustment on my wife's part in getting used to seeing me as Nancy. I needed to get used to being Nancy in front of my wife as well. This last point, discovering that I need to adjust my conduct, came as a surprise. I suppose it shouldn't have, but it did. For the first time, I took the lead, showing my wife what I would be wearing (one of the new dresses), and asking her opinion. She took the cue, and had me try it on. She liked it and complimented me.

That decided, we began to dress. During the process, there was some light conversation, a few small jokes, and in general, an easing of the earlier nervousness. Opportunities for humor were numerous, since this was the first time we had to share a mirror so we could fix our make-up. My wife found this especially humorous, since, in the past, I had often bragged that the only prep a man needed for an evening out was, "A s___, a shower, and a shave".

Ready, we went forth to the buses that would whisk us away to downtown Pittsburgh. Here, new problems arose. I knew several of the people. When dealing with new people and introducing her, and to give her some reassurance, I like to hold her hand or put my hand around her shoulder. This however, was not possible. It was inappropriate, in her eyes, to do so. So, I had no physical means of reassuring her in a new crowd of people.

And what a crowd! Before, I was the only TV she really knew. Now, suddenly, my wife was faced with bus loads of TV's. The closest I can come to describing her at this point is to compare her to Dorothy when she landed in the land of Oz - wide eyed and apprehensive. The only difference was that she couldn't cling to Toto, for old Toto was dressed like Toto-ette.

She managed, however, to carry on. It is important to note here, that throughout the weekend, my wife referred to me as her husband and by my male name. She didn't feel comfortable referring to me as Nancy or to herself as a significant other. SMART MOVE #7: I didn't make this an issue. There was more than enough for her to deal with without fighting over a trivial issue. After all, what's in a name? The people who knew me and whom we associated with that weekend picked up on the name issue and were very cooperative. Besides, I have never cared for the term "significant other". Now pause here and think for a moment. If my wife is the significant other, does that mean that I'm the insignificant other?

Before we boarded the bus, she met Richard Docter and on the bus, we sat near Sandra Cole, by a stroke of luck. This gave me an idea. SMART MOVE #8: Once we arrived at the boat, I tried to manage the seating so that my wife was next to a real woman. I did. We had dinner with Mariette P. Allen and Sandra Cole, as well as Jamie and a very nice crossdresser from the Pittsburgh area. By being in close proximity to a real woman who was comfortable with crossdressers, my wife was more at ease. She could follow their lead, listen to their conversation, and share in it. In effect, the real woman gave my wife the reassurance that everything was okay, that I couldn't. The girl from Pittsburgh helped tremendously by pointing out interesting sights and describing Pittsburgh. In all, dinner was enjoyable and successful.

Once dinner was over, we excused ourselves and went out on deck. SMART MOVE #8: Though we didn't see the show, I felt it was time to give my wife a break. On the open deck of the boat she was able to regroup and relax again. While on deck, we ran into Richard Docter, with whom we started a conversation. As he and my wife seemed to get along well, I slowly backed out of the conversation. This was good, for my wife was able to enjoy an easy conversation with a man whose book she had read. They didn't discuss crossdressing. In fact, I forgot what they discussed. It didn't matter, however. What was important was that she was becoming comfortable with some of the people who belong to and work with our paraculture.

The bus ride back was quiet and uneventful. The rest of the evening in the room, however, was not. SMART MOVE #9: Once back, we both washed the make-up off and went to bed as we normally do back home, as husband and wife. For the first time all day, we hugged, kissed and...., Well, she <u>was</u> gone for two weeks. But this was important. By quickly reverting to our traditional romantic roles (sorry, best way I could think of describing it), I was able to reassure her that nothing in our relationship had changed.

DAY TWO: ON HER OWN

Day two started with FUBAR #4: Forgetting to move watches from central to eastern time zone (Gee Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore!). We therefore didn't have time for breakfast together. Instead, she got up, dressed, and went to the first significant other session of the day. This left me free to get dressed at my leisure and trot on down to the cafe for that all-important first cup of coffee (some habits just transcend the gender question). For the balance of the morning, I did not see her as she went to the morning SO sessions and I flittered about.

Even at lunch, we missed each other. This concerned me. After all, there was always the possibility

that she heard something from one of the other wives that upset her. Running back to the room to pick up several outfits that I was to model during the luncheon, I failed to find her there or along the way. Assuming she had already gone to the luncheon, I picked up my outfits and rushed back to the changing room. As I was anxious to confirm that my wife was, in fact, at the luncheon, I went with the first group to model.

It didn't take me long to discover that she wasn't there. Now, stuck between the proverbial rock and hard place, I did two quick changes, discharged my duties as a model as quickly as possible, and headed back to the room. As I was en route, I finally saw my wife across the lobby. With dresses in hand, I chased her.

As it turned out, instead of eating lunch, my wife had decided to go to the local AAA club after the morning sessions in order to get directions to her sister-in-law's house in Pittsburgh. This was a great relief to me. SMART MOVE #10: Though they were holding lunch for the models, I decided to go back to the hotel cafe with my wife and have lunch with her alone. This gave her an opportunity to tell me about her experiences and observations from that morning's sessions. Though she didn't discuss details (code of silence was in effect), she compared her views with those of the other wives'. This was the first time she had ever been able to do so.

Like the day before, we had lunch in the company of a mixed crowd. Unlike the day before, my wife was at ease. Her conversation was open and normal. There were no fugitive glances to the left or right, or sudden tenseness when the waitress approached. My wife had become comfortable in my presence when I was dressed.

The rest of Friday afternoon was quite anti-climactic. While we enjoyed our late and leisurely lunch, we missed the first afternoon session. That, however, did not matter to us. We were holding our own impromptu session over lunch. We both did manage to make the last session of the day, which was a combined husband and wife discussion group. It was interesting for both of us, but the real work of the day had already been accomplished.

That night, I probably did the smartest thing of the whole weekend. Rather than go to the BE ALL dance that night, which might have been awkward, I decided to change from dresses to male clothing and take my wife out to dinner in Pittsburgh. Now, it wasn't much of a date. We ate at Houlihan's, a chain we were familiar with, at a shopping mall in Pittsburgh and then walked through a store named Horn's. But this action rates as SMART MOVE #11: Again, I provided immediate reinforcement to the fact that my crossdressing wasn't changing our roles or me as a person.

At this point, one might ask the question: After knowing about the crossdressing for ten years, why harp on the need to reinforce the fact that the relationship hadn't changed? The answer is simple. While it is true my wife had known for nine years, she had never been confronted face-to-face with it physically. For nine years, she had only seen and lived with <u>him</u>. The crossdressing was something that she was able to ignore. In her mind, the times I went out and dressed, or attended group meetings, didn't concern her. During the BE ALL gathering, she couldn't ignore the issue. Hence the need to be gentle with the introduction and to reinforce the fact that the relationship she had married into was healthy and still in place.

THE LAST DAY

On Saturday, my wife went to Pittsburgh to visit her sister-in-law while I flittered about and conducted business, attended sessions, and visited friends. In effect, my wife gave me the day off, freeing me to slip into my normal convention mode rather than hovering about, being concerned for her mental well-being. Besides, she got to see her sister-in-law, her niece, Pittsburgh, and do some serious shopping (three dresses worth).

That evening, as we prepared for dinner, we had a lot of fun playing with our make-up, dresses and jewelry. In three days, we had come a long way. My wife had now seen me in all stages of dress and preparation, and it didn't bother her. While we had shared things before, we were now able to really enjoy it, for I knew she accepted me completely and she knew that I was me, her husband, regardless of how I dressed.

That evening at dinner, I was able to get some good seating again. We ate with Linda Buten and her significant other from Cincinnati, another girl and her SO from Linda's group, Kathy G., a TS from my home group, and Richard Docter. Richard Docter sat between us and was a perfect gentleman. Linda, her friend, and their wives were also perfect company, providing a natural, easy going and supportive atmosphere. Had I planned this for months, it couldn't have been better.

As the next day was going to be a long and busy one, my wife retired early, insisting that I stay and enjoy myself. With amazingly little arm-twisting, she talked me into it. So ended my wife's big adventure.

CONCLUSION

All the books I've ever read on writing state that you need a conclusion. Rule of thumb is: the conclusion is the point where the author gets tired of writing. Well, I'm tired.

One may ask, what can I gain from this story? Like any history, and this is a rather simple history, there are lessons that can be learned. But you must be careful to draw the proper conclusions and lessons. To begin with, the above was a story, not a cookbook recipe for how to introduce your wife to the wonderful world of crossdressing. Furthermore, no one can ever replicate the conditions that we operated under. The above story describes a one time, unique set of occurrences.

What I hope you glean out of this is the need to understand who you are and to understand your wife. I invited my wife to join me in Pittsburgh because I felt she could deal with it. This feeling was intuitive, not analytical. I could have been wrong, but wasn't. I had judged the time correctly.

Concerning the mechanics, I have attempted to point out those areas where I believe I erred, or did something good. I didn't go into the weekend with a grand strategy, plotting every move and contingency (hence, numerous FUBARs). Again, I trusted my intuitive judgement. Some of what I did might not work for someone else. A different woman might have reacted entirely differently seeing her husband dressed as a woman at the Pittsburgh airport (and you know something, I wouldn't blame her if she had stopped, turned and walked away). Some things, like the Friday night dinner at Houlihan's, might be necessary. What I am trying to say here is that you have to do what is right for you and your wife. Advice is great; knowledge and your gut feeling is better.

This brings up the final, and perhaps most important lesson I would like all you married crossdressers to walk away with. Be sensitive to the needs of your spouse. Consider for a moment that you are working hard at looking like, and acting like a woman. What better way to develop your feminine self than to adopt a caring, giving, open and empathic attitude toward your own spouse? All I ask is that when you do, approach the problem as the woman you are trying so hard to look like would. The results might surprise you.

Till next time, take care.

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ELECTROLOGIST'S CORNER (#2)

Linda DeFruscio, R.E., R.I.

A few days ago I received a call from a man from Arizona. He said he read my article in Tapestry issue #56, and was grateful to find an electrologist that was sympathetic to the needs of men. He said he was in Boston for a few days and asked me if it was OK if he came over for a consultation. Using my best Italian Bostonian accent, I said, "Shuah!"

He came over for a consultation and a mini-treatment, and I went into some detail as to what he could expect from further treatment. At the end of the consultation he had a wonderful smile on his face, which pleased me, and then said he wanted to start his treatments the next time he came back to Boston.

"Next time you're in Boston?", I asked. "Why not in Arizona?"

"Because I can't find anybody who does men." His comment didn't surprise me, for I'm constantly being called by men who have been turned down by other electrologists. That's understandable, for so few electrologists are trained or skilled in treating the male beard. That's sad, because there are so many men in need of a good electrologist, and the bottom line is, hair is hair.

I'm grateful for my male clients. We do an excellent business with men, and men are among my very best clients.

When I asked him what he wanted to have done, he said he was a crossdresser, and wanted to have his beard removed. However, he wanted to have done gradually in such a way that it wasn't noticeable in his workplace or at home. His heaviest growth was on his chin and upper lip, so I recommended to start there by thinning the hair growth (treating every other hair or so) and balance the growth with the rest of the face. This would prevent noticeable bare spots, but would provide a softer and cleaner complexion, and a better feminine appearance when dressed.

His request was a very common one, and certainly reasonable. In fact, I receive calls virtually every day from men in similar situations. However, I have a great many male clients, and very few of them are having electrolysis for the same reasons. For instance:

When "M" came to me she explained that she was transsexual, and beard removal was necessary for her transition. She was large in stature, with hirsutism (excessive hair growth) over her entire body. She had a history of waxing and tweezing her facial hair, and using wax, depilatory creams, and an Epilady on her body. The tweezing and waxing of her facial hair left her with a serious ingrown hair problem, distorted hairs, and multiple hairs growing out of one follicle (a result of damaged papillae). When she first came to me for treatments she suffered from pitting, erythema (redness, inflammation), edema (swelling from infection), and extensive ingrown hairs. She had also had hundreds of hours of electrolysis, and was frustrated, angry, and discouraged. She had been going to electrologists who were unfamiliar with treating the heavier male beard. Having her complexion and hair problems taken care of was a higher priority than SRS (sexual reassignment surgery). Through electrolysis we were able to overcome all these problems, and she now has much smoother skin, and a softer, more feminine appearance. She uses very little makeup, and is now preparing for SRS.

Another example is "H". "H" is an elderly retired male crossdresser. She is not interested in SRS, and does not have a job or a family, and is not particularly concerned by what other people think. Her beard is light in color, and she feels that shaving is adequate. She has been going out in public for many years, and is quite confident. However, she does like to wear her hair pulled back, and in close situations such as concerts, her sideburns tend to give her away. She came to me to reduce the sideburns, and create a more definitive hairline. Fortunately, she had no problems, and treating her has been easy and a pleasure.

"J" has not been so easy. "J" is neither a crossdresser nor transsexual. He is a married black man in is early 30's. He came to me because he had corkscrew hairs, and imbedded hairs. He suffered

from a condition called keratosis pilaris (thickening of the skin at the outlet of the follicle). Tough skin caused the hair to bend inward instead of reaching the surface. He also suffered from keloiding (hyperpigmentation caused by skin trauma, tweezing, etc.). This condition existed on his neck only. He also suffered from pili multigemini (two or more hairs in one follicle). So far I have given him about 20 hours of treatment. He is under instructions to leave his face alone between treatments, and use salt and warm water rinses and applying an antibacterial ointment after treatment. The rinses help promote the healing process, and draw out debris left in the follicle. He has followed instructions, and we have seen significant improvement in skin tissue and color. We have also seen a significant reduction of hair growth, ingrowns, and irritation caused by these distorted hairs. Both he and I are very happy with his progress so far.

"D" is not so lucky. "D" is a middle-aged married male crossdresser. She came to me because she wanted her beard completely removed. Unfortunately, she came to me with a severe case of ingrowns, some so bad they couldn't be treated. Her attempts to treat these ingrowns at home caused extensive scarring. She also suffered from superficial and deep folliculitis (involved infection of entire follicle and surface area). She also suffered from pili multigemini (up to four hairs in one follicle). We have had to cease treatments. At the present time she is under a physician's care to bring the infection under control before we can resume treatment.

"Y" is much more fortunate. She is a middle-aged man who cross-lives (transgenderist). She came to me to have her beard removed. Fortunately, although her beard was coarse in texture it was straight, and easy to treat. She considered the beard to be an inconvenience, and a problem in close, intimate situations. Generally, she felt "dirty" with a beard. She had a good complexion, took care of herself, and her treatments went quickly. However, she was in a hurry, and expected much quicker results. Her frustration almost caused her to quit, but she stuck with it. She has now had a little over 100 hours of treatment, her beard is almost completely removed, and she is happy -- at last!

(By the way, "Y" began with and continues her treatments with my former assistant, Karen Ford, who has since set up her own practice on Cape Cod.)

"V" is a different case. "V" is an average American, married, 2.5 kids, white picket fence, with a 9-5 white collar job. At night she's a professional female impersonator. Her beard was fairly light, and she wanted to keep it for daytime appearances. Also, with stage makeup the beard didn't cause her a problem at night. She came to me because she had one eyebrow, which caused her a problem at all times. Reshaping her eyebrows was no problem what-so-ever, and now she looks just great, in the daytime, and at night.

"D" is yet another case. "D" is a married middle-aged man, is not a cross-dresser, and is self-conscious about coming to an electrologist. He came to me because his beard was very thick, and his skin was sensitive. He was constantly cutting himself shaving, and suffered from constant irritation. To protect his peace of mind, we set up special hours for him, and we are thinning his beard gradually, so as to go unnoticed at work and at home. Fortunately, the color of his beard is quite light, so the results of the electrolysis does not show, but the styptic pencil is no longer part of his shaving routine.

My last, but not least, example is my friend "E". "E" is a middle-aged M-F transsexual. She first came to me with a beard so thick and black that she had severe shadow even after shaving. She was visibly upset and very discouraged, and told me she would do anything to get rid of the beard. We put her on an intensive electrolysis treatment program. Fortunately, she had not damaged her face by waxing or tweezing, as "M" had, and her treatments went quickly and smoothly. After less than a year of treatment, she is living full time as a woman, and passes beautifully. Her confidence is soaring, and she is very very pleased. I am also pleased.

I have been an electrologist for 12 years, following in my mother's footsteps. Over the years Mom and I have had many male clients, most of whom where a joy to work with, and some of whom have become close friends. I am proud to have them as my clients, and as my friends. I also thoroughly enjoy the challenges they present. I look forward to many more in the future, even those from as far away as Arizona.

[end]

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ADVENTURES IN WAZILAND (NEW YORK CITY)
or
"HOW TO COME OUT OF THE CLOSET IN A YELLOW CAB"

By: Linda Phillips

It all started one day when Cynthia got a call from a sister in Houston, saying that since we were so good in a film we made for the Fiesta Chapter, on couples involved in our community, we should think about being on the "Joan Rivers Show" to promote Mariette Pathy Allen's great new book "Transformations". The only thing was, it was in New York City, and we're not too keen on big eastern cities. Wait! Gee, if we went to New York, I, of course, would be expected to go as Linda, right?? Of course, poor Linda has "nothing to wear", as usual, so now, 15 or 20 minutes on the screen means like five or six weeks of real life, right?? Cynthia somehow failed to grasp the idea of all this, but like the sport she is, agreed. So we made arrangements to go to the Big Apple, or as C.J. calls it, "the Big Rip-Off". After only three shopping trips, dragging (?) all my clothes out, we narrowed the selection down to a few bare necessities essential to my peace of mind.

Then, of course, I had to go get my nails done, spend a day de-furring myself, etc.

Now, I have never flown, (in a plane), dressed before, so I was a little nervous about it. Someone even wrote a piece somewhere on how to do it, but, of course, I forget the details. (It's really simple, all you really need is courage and money). Anyway, we showed up at 9:00 am to pick up our tickets, Cynthia doing most of the talking. Cynthia: "Do you have two pre-paid tickets for Linda and Cynthia Phillips?". Ticket clerk: "Yes, but I'll have to see some I.D.". Hmmmm...unlike other lucky people I know, I have no female I.D., and the last cop that stopped me dressed, refused to believe that "M" on my driver's license stood for "maiden". "Well", sez Cynthia, "if I tell you a story about who this other girl is and where we are going, will you let us have the tickets?". "Tell me the story", sez the clerk, "but I will still have to see I.D.". "Well, you see, this really isn't a woman, it's a man!". "Oh", sez the clerk, "you are a female impersonator." "Yes, that's it," I reply, grasping for straws, sweat stains beginning to show on my knit dress, as the woman's mouth next to me in line drops to her knees. "Yes, well", sez wife, "we are going to be on the Joan Rivers Show and this is really my husband." The clerk's eyes sort of glazed over, and the woman next to me in line moved quickly away, but not far enough so that she couldn't hear the rest of the conversation. "That's great," the clerk answers, "and I'll watch the show, but I still have to see an I.D." So I got down on the floor and dug through all my lingerie, panty hose, etc. for the only I.D. I had, which I stuck in the carry-on luggage we had. The woman watching all this was starting to hyperventilate, and we got out of there as fast as we could.

I love having flight attendants call me "Ma'am" (In fact, I love anyone that calls me Ma'am), even if they do pay more attention to me when I am dressed as my "evil twin". So we had a great flight out.

Now, if you have ever watched the Joan Rivers Show, you will hear them say that "Some guests of the Joan Rivers Show stay at the Plaza Hotel overlooking Central Park." What they don't say is...Transvestites stay in the Park! No, not really, but down the street from the "Plaza" is a little known fact of life for "other" Joan Rivers guests...The Days Inn Hotel. Now, this place was, in its heyday (about the time Mayor Jimmie Walker was the darling of New York City society), quite a place. (Actually, New York City hit its zenith about that time, and hasn't been the same since).

After a $20.00 cab ride from the airport in a cab hurled, not driven, by a guy straight from the Jamaican sugar fields, who has been told "you tear up cab, we get you new one", and was really trying, anything looked good. After we hung up our clothes, praying that the wrinkles would fall out, we went out for a walk in good old filthy New York City. I, of course, wanted to wear heels (just the short ones, Honey!). Cooler heads prevailed and we wore flats, ugh! Very few girls wear heels in New York City, and I know why now. We found that walking is the only thing in New York City that you can do for free (Baby, it's the only free thing, and someone told me they are trying to figure out how to charge for it).

That evening, we were invited to Mariette's townhouse, and met the other couple to appear on the show, Dan Riley and Yvonne Cook, both TV's - she , a male to female, and he, a female to male. Two really great people.

The five of us went out to dinner, blowing the expense money from the show, in one fell swoop.

We got up at 5:30 (Texas time 4:30 am), since poor, old Linda takes longer and longer to assemble as the years "drag" by. It was then I realized I had left a good deal of my magic potions at home, and I was running out of tape, an essential ingredient to the "over 50" cross-dresser.

"They" had told us not to put our makeup on and to just do our eyes. "They" said that their makeup person would do the rest. However, when we arrived at the studio, we were totally made up, not really believing, for some reason, the promise to do it for us.

When I was called to makeup, the young girl doing makeup had never seen one of us - "Gosh, you already have a LOT of makeup on!" "Honey, I NEED a lot of makeup just to walk down the street", I replied. "How do you do that?", she asked, noting my tape placed to get rid of the 50 year old sags and wrinkles. So here I am, educating a makeup artist in New York City, on how to make a man appear as a woman in public! So much for picking up "little makeup tricks"!

When we talked to the show's producer, she assured us that no last names would be used, and again, before we went on, we said, "please, no last names". So, of course, the first thing I heard after being introduced, was my own name! Oh no!! A cross-dresser's worst fear was being realized. My life flashed before my eyes, my cover blown in a second. During the commercial break, I looked accusingly at Joan Rivers. "I can't believe you just used my last name," I croaked. "Oh, no, we wouldn't do that", good old Joan replied. After they went back over the script to assure me they didn't use my name (and discovering they did), Joan decided to play up the fact that I was from Chicago, although I haven't been back there in 45 years. I had a vivid picture of all the crossdressers with my name in Chicago, packing up all their belongings and fleeing the city!

How I got through the rest of the show was, and remains, a mystery. All my crossdresser friends told me I did great, but I am still wondering when that phone call will come from one of my redneck, macho, straight friends, telling me how great I look in my pink silk dress on television!

Anyway, after they rushed us out of the studio, we walked (in the rain), to the Museum of Modern Art, which I had always wanted to see. Everything was going fine, until we were about to leave. A woman spotted me (we were dressed just as we had been on the show - smart!). "Look", she stage whispers to her husband, "it's the guy dressed as a woman that we saw on TV this morning!" "Oh great!", I moan inwardly, "just what I need." But they didn't send up flares and point, they just stared in pure amazement, I guess. We decided we didn't need any more of this or New York City, and called the limo that was supposed to take us to the airport. We found out they would have to pick us up at the hotel, so back we walked, ten blocks in the rain. (When it rains in New York, the cabs hide. They are not sanforized.).

The limo driver was a nice guy, a real change for drivers in New York AND he spoke English. What a breakthrough. He kept asking us, "So what did you people do on the show?", noting that we were NOT Steve Lawrence and Edie Gormet, who followed us, "I missed it today." He asked us twice, and finally Cynthia replied, "We were the crossdressing couple." "Uhh", after a long silence, "Gosh, which one of you is the guy?" After a long stressful experience in New York, I suddenly loved the town! I never wanted to leave! New York, New York, my kind of town...all right!

I glanced at my long suffering, patient spouse, in her too big blonde wig, and observed a slight tightening of the jaw. "Uh, actually, I am," I said, messing up the best chance I ever had for a divorce after 32 years. We answered dozens of questions for him, assuring him

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that, no, I didn't "make it" with men, that I really did this because I like women and want to emulate them. When we got to the airport, I wanted to give him a big tip (say 50 or 100 dollars), but Cynthia assured me that $5.00 would be plenty. This guy will never make it in politics.

When we got to the airport, we had to use the restroom. Now, I have been reading the "big restroom debate" in many of the crossdresser newsletters, but let me tell you, when you gotta go, you gotta go. Now, I would rather use the men's room, since women tend to use rest rooms as dumping grounds, and a place that someone else has to clean. But when in Rome...One of us watched the luggage and one of us went to the 'loo'. When it was my turn, I did my business and was trying to beat some soap out of the dispenser, when a fat woman with a large, sticky baby, thrust it at me. "Hold this," she muttered. "Uh, but...". Now, I am not big on holding babies, especially large, sticky ones in airport restrooms, but I did as I was told until she used up the last of the soap, and gathered up her child. Perfect pass, huh?? Oh yeah, great!

Well, we almost never left good old New York, because of rain delays. But about 2 o'clock in the morning, two very weary, dirty girls arrived back home. Because of the lateness of our arrival, the brass band was not there to greet us, but we were still glad to be back.

What did WE learn from this experience? If you are called to appear as a speaker, make sure of the following: If your expenses are to be paid, either get up-front money, or get something in writing! The person you talk to may not have the authority to O.K. your fee. We were not reimbursed for several things we personally paid for. Never give your real name, either first or last. If you don't like the format, or they change right before you go on, threaten to walk. They will more than likely see things your way. If Yvonne had not insisted (strongly), that they use the IFGE logo, they wouldn't have. Remember, before you go on, they will promise anything. Once you are off, it's too late, and you become another "yesterday". Make sure you get (our) your message across. The media people love to exploit us. It's up to us to see that they pay for the privilege by letting us get our message out.

Gee, I have been looking at my wardrobe, and if I get another call to go somewhere (anywhere) dressed, I really don't have ..."anything to wear".

I wonder how the sales are running today?.....

[end]

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(Roger Peo is a Board Certified sexologist and president of 'Androgyny Unlimited'. He is also a member of the IFGE Board of Directors, and chairman of the IFGE publications Committee. He is also a member of the Tri-Ess professional staff. If you have any subjects you would like Roger to write about, or wish to write a rebuttal, you may write him at: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call: 914-452-8405. All communications are confidential.)

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#45)
Differing Needs of Transgendered Persons

Some interesting questions have been raised in recent newsletters from various transgender groups. Of significance are these three: Do all transgendered persons have the same needs? Can any one organization meet the needs of all transgendered persons? Are transsexuals second-class citizens in the transgender community? Together these and other questions point to several rifts in what once seemed a relatively homogeneous community. This and my next few columns will address these issues which can affect the gender community in potentially damaging ways.

As a therapist, I can tell you that transgendered persons do not all have the same needs. While there are often common or typical concerns, the outcome is never the same. All transgendered persons seem to be searching; they want to know who they are. Just as others who come for therapy, the transgendered person is a unique individual. With this uniqueness comes a need to have solutions that fit his/her particular circumstances. When they gain this understanding they can learn to find the right path through the maze of the future.

Outwardly the transvestite and the transsexual may appear the same but inwardly there are profound differences between them.

The cross-dresser wants to live in both the masculine and feminine gender roles. Since our society does not recognize or support such duality, conflicts are set up which must be resolved if the cross-dresser's life is to move peacefully. Some struggles within the individual are revealed as dissatisfaction with their physical body or with the expectations placed on them by the society in which they live. A larger set of problems are found in the cross-dresser's relationships. With some insight and sensitivity, together with significant emotional work, the cross-dresser can have portions of both the masculine and feminine worlds.

The transsexual is not as fortunate as the transvestite because their internal conflicts are not responsive to therapy alone. Further, they often feel very isolated because their needs are more in conflict with their physical being. Their personal relationships are often full of struggles which doom them to failure. Intimate relationships collapse leaving the transsexual with little emotional support. The bright spot in this situation is that with appropriate help the transsexual can make the transition into the other gender role and thus become a whole person.

In some ways the transsexual and the cross-dresser each think the other has the better situation. A transsexual can "get the operation" and move to the new role where gender discomfort no longer exists. The cross-dresser does not have the intense discomfort of "being in the wrong body" so he can have the best of both worlds. Neither situation is either simple or easy. There is no magic wand. Each person has to find the right responses to their uniqueness.

Organizations Serving The Community

Building on those thoughts, I have some observations on the way these differing needs seem to be effecting the whole transgender community.

An issue that continues to generate a great deal of discussion is whether any one organization can (or should?) try to serve the needs of the entire transgender community. There are two terms in this issue that need to be examined -- serve and one organization. First, "one organization" means a formal collection of people who are implementing a philosophy, usually to achieve some long-term goals. So, businesses, governments and social clubs are all organizations. An organization can contain a few people or millions -- what binds it together are the philosophy and goals.

"Serve" is a harder term to define. For this column I will use it to mean meeting most of the needs of some group of people.

My observations and experience lead me to conclude that it is impossible for any single organization to

meet all the needs of the transgender community. We have IFGE, Renaissance, Tri-Ess, Outreach, The Twenty (XX) Club, ETVC, The Chicago Gender Society, etc. all of which are serving the community. Each organization has its own goals, some of which are common to other groups, e.g. education of the public about transgender situations, trying to reach closeted transgendered persons, etc.

However, each organization operates under different philosophies. For example, while Tri-Ess restricts membership to heterosexual cross-dressers and their partners, Renaissance makes no such restriction. Choosing to embrace a wide variety of transgendered persons can make it more difficult to completely support any one segment. However, by choosing to focus on only one part of the community to provide specialized support can make an organization seem exclusionary. Is one way "right" and the other "wrong"? No, each has chosen to identify their focus of action.

In fact, diversity is good for the whole community. Just as each of us has different tastes in food and recreation, each transgendered person has unique needs. By experimenting with the smorgasbord of groups that exist, each person can find the one that most closely meets his or her needs. When these diverse philosophies come together in a spirit of cooperation the result can be more than any one group could have achieved on its own.

Only when one style of organization feels its way is the only way is friction and dissention created. There is more than enough to do in supporting transgendered persons without creating internal problems. Whatever the focus, each group should respect the differing philosophies of the others.

Transsexuals as Second Class Citizens

From the transsexual's viewpoint they often feel they are "second class citizens" in the larger transgender community. There appear to be several reasons for this situation. First, there are many fewer transsexuals than transvestites -- so they are in a minority if all else were equal. Secondly, and perhaps most important, many transsexuals are not in the best financial situation. They are often in therapy, paying for hormone therapy, undergoing electrolysis and maybe in the middle of a divorce. None of these are inexpensive.

If they are living and working as a woman they are probably making significantly less than they did as a man. Lastly, they are probably also saving as much as they can for genital surgery (since this is both expensive and not often covered by insurance). For these, and other reasons, they have much less disposable income than the cross-dresser.

Thus, many simply can not afford to attend the conventions. Without this visibility they are unable to influence the attitudes and actions of the larger community.

Perhaps the most difficult problem the transsexual community faces is long-term continuity in leadership. Many transsexuals view the community as a transitory phase. They come to learn about themselves, determine the courses of action that are best for them and follow them. When they become successful members of the other gender they disappear into the larger world.

As I wrote in the first column in this series, transsexuals and cross-dressers have different psychological and emotional needs. From the transsexual's viewpoint, the cross-dresser seems more interested in clothing and the superficial aspects of femininity. Conventions are seen as the ultimate expression of this set of interests. So, in addition to being expensive, most conventions do not address the needs of the transsexual or if they do, it is only a small part of the program.

This differing focus is quite understandable from the convention organizer's viewpoint. Most of the persons who attend are cross-dressers. They pay for a program which meets their needs. Thus, the majority rules and the minority is angry and frustrated.

It is always difficult to meet the desires of a widely divergent group. Some organizations decided it could not be done and have openly restricted their membership to a sub-set of the community. Others have set no restrictions. In the latter case it can seem as if the majority (usually the cross-dressers) defines programs that are of little interest to the minority (usually transsexuals).

I wish I had a simple answer for this dilemma. I don't. By writing this series of columns I hope that I can make everyone more sensitive to the problems any transgender organization faces.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#48)
Exploring Femininity

One of the reasons I hear quite often for cross-dressing is "exploring femininity". Yet as I observe people who give this explanation I find this doesn't seem to explain their behavior. This inconsistency is especially obvious in marriage relationships.

A major problem in many marriages arises when the husband tries to pressure his wife into completely accepting and supporting his cross-dressing. His appears to feel that it his right to expect her to fully accept this side of his personality and behavior. Her acceptance seems to be required so that he can be comfortable with his cross-dressing. No matter what she says, he keeps pushing. It is not enough that she gives him "space" to express this part of his personality. If she is not wholeheartedly encouraging, even to the point of suggesting that he cross-dress, then he is upset and pushes even harder.

Most wives are concerned for their husband's happiness. Often they put his happiness ahead of their own, even to the point of their own discomfort. I recently had a letter from a man who wanted me to tell him how to convince his wife to be more accepting of his cross-dressing. Never mind that she had tolerated it for nearly 40 years. That was not enough. He wanted total acceptance of his cross-dressed self, even though she had made it very clear that it was, to her, a very painful part of his personality.

I believe that there are few men who could or would endure such a situation if it were his wife who indulged in behavior that was upsetting to him.

To me exploring femininity means observing what women do and imitating it to see what such behavior "feels like". Putting on lingerie and a dress is not examining any substantial aspect of femininity. I think a better term for wearing women's clothing would be exploring sexuality or sensuality. While such terminology may seem threatening, I believe it is much closer to the truth of the situation. As I observe men who cross-dress, I see very little behavior that could be described as feminine. Their interpersonal behavior is almost always classically male. If they talk to women it is almost always about makeup or clothes. Very seldom does the conversation contain questions about how to understand women's behaviors and their relationships with others.

By now you, the reader, are wondering about my feelings toward cross-dressers. I believe that it has taken each of you a lot of courage to admit being a cross-dresser and to try to learn more about it. What I am concerned about is that many cross-dressers believe that putting on a dress is exploring femininity. Women who hear this are either amused or upset because they know that femininity is much more than clothes. It is a variety of behaviors that often has at its core a deep concern for the well being of other people.

So, cross-dress and enjoy the escape into sensuality but be careful that you are not seducing yourself into believing you are learning about femininity or being a woman, because being a woman is hard work.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#49)
Telling Others - Techniques & Obligations

Among the difficult issues faced by all transgendered persons is who to tell about these feelings and how to go about disclosing this very private behavior. The advice I give my clients is <u>not</u> to tell someone unless there is a compelling reason to do so. This applies to wives, parents, children and friends.

How to decide whether or not to tell someone is not easy. Remember that telling someone places a burden on them. This should never be done casually, thoughtlessly or selfishly. Informing others to relieve your guilt or to increase your freedom to cross-dress are not reasons. The fundamental question is, "Will this improve my relationship with this other person?" Only if this can be truthfully answered, "Yes", should the disclosure be made.

I believe that most wives should know but that children, parents and relatives do not need to know unless you are a transsexual who is beginning the "real life test".

When it appears necessary to divulge your cross-dressing to someone, it should never be done hastily or without planning. Hopefully you are not in a crisis situation (such as having been arrested) which will give you time for planning.

When and how to make such a disclosure about yourself is even harder, for you <u>must</u> put the other person's feelings ahead of your own no matter how scary this seems. You have to answer the question, "How will this other person feel about receiving this information?" I may role-play various situations with my clients to help them find the best way and setting for this revelation. Remember that such disclosure will often be shocking for the person. The closer that person is to you, the larger the potential for upsetting this person. Many things have to be considered -- personal, social, and relational issues are all important. The other part is timing -- when is the least inappropriate time. Certainly if there are other serious problems to be dealt with, this should not be added to the burden. Also, you do not have to disclose everything at once. People can easily become emotionally overloaded with this information. They should be told at a rate they can manage, even if this means spreading out the revelation over time. One approach is to let the other person ask questions since you can not guess what is important to them. You must be honest,

yet tactful, when you respond.

What should you do if you are the person receiving this information? First and most important, you have an obligation to keep the information confidential. This applies whether you are in an intimate relationship with someone or a member of a group of cross-gendered persons. You have been given this information because the person trusted you. It is not appropriate, under any circumstances, for you to tell someone else about the behavior. If you do, it is highly likely that the other person will tell someone else and on and on it goes. Eventually, the "juicy gossip" will get to someone who will use it against the cross-gendered person.

While disclosure is not easy, it is often the best course of action. Done with care it can improve relationships and lift the burden you are carrying.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#50)
One Wife's Feelings

This is my 50th column. As I look back over the topics I have written about in the past five years the most important were those that dealt with relationships. This month's column is based on a conversation one of my faithful readers had with his wife about his cross-dressing. To the best of his ability he recorded her exact words in his personal journal. He has graciously allowed me to use some of her words as the basis for this column.

The remarkable thing about this woman's feelings is that they are the same as those reported to me nearly 10 years ago when I did my study of wives of cross-dressers. Her emotions are a composite of what I have heard many other women say and express far better than I could what many women feel about their partner's cross-dressing.

"Had I known of your deep-down desire to be a woman before our marriage, I would not have married you. I am a very feminine person who is thankful she is a woman and takes delight in her feminine sexuality. Sexually I desire a man who rejoices in his masculinity, who loves me because I complete his masculine aspirations and not because he has a need to take over my femininity which belongs to me and not to him. You should know that I fantasize and dream about such a relationship."

"I must tell you that I feel deprived of such a relationship which is something I desire intensely. When we make love I must close my eyes and imagine my lover to be such a one as that because when I look at you I know you are wishing you could become me, that you are stealing my womanhood."

"I too love to wear beautiful feminine underclothes but I will never again do so when you are around because I have the feeling that it is my clothes you are desiring and not me. You have stolen these things from me and I can now only enjoy them when I am apart from you."

"I know that you can not help yourself. God knows you did not choose to be the way you are. Mostly you are tender toward me, considerate and loyal. You are hard-working, intelligent, thoughtful and have many admirable qualities. But because of your unfortunate unhappiness with your masculinity you are not the man I want. You think you are feminine and indeed there is a feminine side to you as there is to every human being but you are a very masculine person in your day-to-day living in spite of your wish to be a woman."

The sad part of this story is that both of these people have spent a lifetime with this obstacle blocking and frustrating their daily lives. Our sexuality is such an intimate part of ourselves that when its expression is inhibited there is a possibility for anguish and frustration.

[end]

CP

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WRITE FOR OUR CATALOG

LOOK WHAT ELSE I FOUND IN MY CLOSET

by
Kyndel Fay Mercedes Kellis

There is nothing worse than a reformed anything. I don't care if it is an ex-smoker, a born again anything, a recovering alcoholic/addict, a vegetarian, or the person with a hot new diet. Their prosyletization will push you around the bend every time. If you have ever gone out of your way to avoid someone who is on a crusade, you know what I mean. Some people will actually go out of their way to rain down their condemnation on your perceived wicked ways. No ma'am, nothing's worse than a reformed anything.

I should know, because I am one. But I am not a ranter or a raver. I just want to share a little information and let you make your own decision.

Since I have made it my avocation to knock on closet doors and ask people to come out and play and enjoy their special lives, I have stumbled across something else in a good many of those closets, mine included. My name is Kyndel Fay Mercedes Kellis and I am a recovering alcoholic/addict. I will gladly give up my anonymity if it will help one person honestly examine their own behavior.

When the Berdache Society was first being formed, I thought it was a coincidence that the first person I made contact with was a recovering alcoholic. Then, I met the second person, and she was a recovering alcoholic, which made it three for three. I thought it was a minor statistical fluke. However, the more sisters I came into contact with, the more apparent it became that this was not some fluke. Alcohol/substance abuse represents a major issue in the lives of many gender non-conformists. As my personal network expanded, so did the number of individuals who related that they, too, were caught up in this dis-ease process.

After I thought about it, it seems that we as gender non-conformists are sitting ducks for the dis-ease process of alcoholism and addictions. I don't know about everyone else, but I used to be pretty uncomfortable with myself. I was uncomfortable about my male self, yet I would put off dressing until I couldn't stand it any longer. Then I would go on a three day drinking spree and get dressed. For weeks afterward, I'd be depressed because I had done it again. The sad part was that though I was getting dressed, attempting to let my true spirit shine, I was as numb as your little toe in a new pair of five inch heels. I couldn't feel how good it felt to be me.

For me, it was kind of easy to say, "oh yeah, I got drunk and dressed up as a woman". You see, that way I didn't have to take ownership of who or what I was. In recovery jargon, this is called denial, and if you think the actual drugs or alcohol are the demon, honey, you're into denial. I won't go into the ludicrous denial inherent in the JUST SAY NO dogma, but my experience tells me that alcohol or drugs ain't the problem; denial is, and denial is part of our personalities and not something external.

Okay, so what is denial? Well, take this little test:

1. Do you lose time from work due to alcohol or drug use?
2. Is alcohol and/or drug use making your home life unhappy?
3. Do you drink or use drugs because you are shy around people?
4. Are alcohol or drugs affecting your reputation?
5. Have you ever felt remorse after drinking or drug use?
6. Have you ever gotten into financial difficulties as a result of using alcohol or drugs?
7. Do you turn to unsavory companions and inferior environment when drinking alcohol or using drugs?
8. Have you ever been arrested or stopped as a result of alcohol or drug use?
9. Have your ambition and/or inhibitions decreased since alcohol or drug use?
10. Do you use alcohol or drugs to build your self-esteem?
11. Do you crave alcohol or drugs at a definite time daily?
12. Do you want alcohol or drugs the next morning?
13. Do alcohol or drugs cause sleep problems?
14. Has your efficiency decreased because of alcohol or drug use?
15. Is drinking jeopardizing your job or business?
16. Do you use alcohol or drugs to ease your worries or troubles?
17. Do you use alcohol or drugs alone?
18. Have you ever had a loss of memory from alcohol or drug use?
19. Have you ever been treated for an injury that was a result of alcohol or drug abuse?
20. Do you need to drink alcohol or use drugs before you dress or go out?

If you got through the test without saying, "this doesn't apply to me", congratulations, you are already dealing with denial.

If you answered 'Yes' to any one question, there is a high probability that you may be an alcoholic/addict.

If you answered 'Yes' to any two questions, there is a definite probability that you are an alcoholic/addict.

If you answered 'Yes' to three or more questions, you are definitely an alcoholic/addict.

If you didn't answer 'Yes', either you are very fortunate, or else you are very much into denial. But that is the tough one to figure out.

Hey, it's not my test. Don't shoot the messenger! The test is an abridged version of one used by Johns Hopkins University Hospital to evaluate if someone is in the dis-ease process of alcoholism or addiction.

Okay, what is this dis-ease process, you ask? (I hope you're still with me and have not thumbed to the personals to get the address of the cutie from Peoria). The dis-ease process is a steady downward spiral of emotional and spiritual decay. Everyone has their own rate of descent, but it is a steady erosion marked by neglect of ourselves. Emotions are not felt and processed in a way that promotes emotional and spiritual growth. This diminished spirit makes it difficult to define who and what we are, and to deal with our environment. We ignore messages from the inner self and the outside world, and this brings on feelings of inadequacy or shame. We begin to see life as a prison rather than a circus, and we avoid life rather than engaging in it.

As the spiral continues, we become increasingly tolerant of the detrimental effects of whatever we are addicted to. We become immersed in denial, covering up, and desperately trying to make it appear like all is well. In doing so, we lose the ability to be happy, enjoy life and accomplish worthwhile things. We rapidly lose our sense of self-esteem, which causes greater tension, which we try to smother with more of the addictive object. Our values become compromised, and we lose our sense of morality.

Toward the end of this spiral, we develop feelings of hopelessness, become socially isolated, lose track of our true selves, and experience loss of control over our own lives. At this point, we turn away consciously or unconsciously from our own spirituality.

Understanding that all addictions have a predictable outcome in our personality enables one to better grasp the concept that <u>the addiction is in the person rather than the stuff we put into our person.</u> It also helps to define that this is a process, and as such, there is the possibility of recovery.

My process began at age nine, and involved a fifth of whiskey, my fourteen year old "baby sitter", her boyfriend begging for two steps toward the door, and me with a pistol. This kind of behavior lasted for over thirty years. Here is the insidious part. I had always been employed, didn't sleep in gutters, drove new cars, had a family, had houses, owned and operated businesses, built a farm in the bush of Alaska, and was a 48 DDDD full of denial. I was so full of denial, I found a physician who drank more than I did to treat the blinding headaches I suffered from drinking too much. His treatment was an open-ended prescription for codeine and for eight years I was numb and in massive denial. The incredible part was that I could still function to some degree. Today, I have gone 2 1/2 years without a drink. I am not perfect. I am still not drug free. I still have a love affair with nicotine, caffeine, and some others, but I am dealing with them one day at a time. I don't beat myself up over it. I know what can hurt me and keep me from being all I can be, so I plan my life accordingly.

Most of us have had to come to terms with denial in regard to our gender non-conformism, so we are one up on the general population. However, we have all the general population's problems, plus some that are unique to our population, so we may have done a little St. Vittus' dance - you know, one step forward and two back.

What this means is that <u>we as gender non-conformists are at greater risk for this dis-ease process than the general population.</u> Forewarned is forearmed, and you can intervene in this dis-ease process at any stage and save yourself.

You have the right to all those good times your femme self has longed for all these years. You have a right to develop yourself emotionally, spiritually and physically the way you want to be, but you can't do these things and be comatose, hon. You can't deal effectively with gender issues (or any issues) and be loaded. If you did answer 'yes' to any of the questions, you owe it to yourself to explore where you are in the dis-ease process of addiction, and you can't do it alone. You will need help.

The Gay community has recognized the need for energies to be directed in this area for a number of years. It is time for the gender community to do the same. If you are a brother or sister in recovery, make yourself known. If you can show up at a meeting in heels and a dress, you can let go of your anonymity to help a brother or sister find their way out of the addiction process. Remember, somebody helped you.

I am not advocating imposing your standards of recovery on others, but you can let it be known that you have experienced this dis-ease process and are actively involved in your own recovery. Being a visible example of someone honestly working a program of recovery is the best thing you can do. And for goodness' sake don't crusade. Just speak the truth quietly and with the integrity your program provides for you. Easy does it.

There is one publication that might be of value for the helping professional; Dual Identities: Counseling Chemically Dependent Gay Men and Lesbians from Hazelden Publications, Pleasant Valley Road, Box 176, Center City, MN. 55012-0176, $7.95. It addresses some of the issues we face as gender non-conformists caught up in the addiction process.

If you would like to be in contact with a sister in recovery, or if you would like to add your name to the contact list, please write to Recoveryline, c/o Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020 or contact me, and I will do my best to put you in touch with someone or an organization in your area. I am also interested in gender non-conformists who are in recovery and their autobiographies. I will use the information to put together a book on the special issues we face. In this regard, anonymity will be respected. The proceeds will be used towards gender and addiction education and support.

[end]

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Catch the Spirit!

EDITORIAL:

DESTRUCTIVE WAYS
by
Kay Gould

One important obligation of a person with access to our community's media is to abstain from biased criticism or pontification. It is an unwritten obligation, but clearly one that must be observed. For the past six years that I have been privileged to participate in and write about the events of many crossdressing organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Asia. In all my writings I have tried to observe that obligation. However, in this article I intend to deviate from that obligation.

This is a personal opinion about a subject which, if ignored, can be: **(1)** Deadly to our community. **(2)** Deadly if accepted by other parts of society. Or, **(3)** very damaging to us individually and to each other.

No, I'm not about to launch off on sexual issues or communicable diseases. There is already sufficient dialogue on those matters. I'm going to talk about inappropriate behavior, and attitudes.

As a person who travels about 150-200 days a year, I have been fortunate enough to visit most of the areas in which the crossdressing (CD) and transsexual (TS) culture exists. In fact, I always try to structure my personal schedule to be in as many cities as possible where events are taking place. I only mention this to suggest that my observations later in this article are based on an incredible number of contacts and observations. I am also very active in another communications media wherein a great deal of dialogue, which at times seems private, is in fact open to public view. Interestingly enough, the observations seem to be almost as strong in the TS as well as the CD arena.

Bluntly speaking, we need to concentrate very heavily on doing away with, or eliminating, inappropriate masculine traits, masculine behavior, masculine attitudes, and masculine modes of every form whenever we assume the feminine role. Of course, it is not too difficult to recognize that not many crossdressers do this. The net effect is that they appear, are perceived as, or in many cases, are heard of as "just a bunch of men in dresses". Let me give you some examples of what I am talking about, along with some comment about each area where appropriate.

Example #1: The TS who can't give up her "macho attack ways", especially when expressed against CD's who only a while back were her sisters.

Quite simply, bias and intolerance are disgusting traits. Macho posturing, perceived self-importance, and public aggressiveness are different from assertiveness. Recently, on a nationally televised talk show, I observed a well-known member of The eastern crossdressing community display just such a biased, intolerant, and aggressive style in her manner and speech. I have discussed that episode with well over 200 non-CD people and about as many paraculture people. Almost universally, observers discarded the vast majority of her comments. Not only was her message lost, but all others associated with her were embarrassed, and worst of all, not taken seriously. In fact, the only way any of us could counter the bad effects of that performance is to disavow that person.

What a shame that someone who has given so much to her local community should suffer that fate. Worse, what a true shame that her message was totally lost and ignored. Even her club sisters suffered from that exhibition.

Example #2: The CD at a public setting social gathering, who can't take the time or make the effort to imbibe like a lady.

When a CD is in a public environment, she should watch how the "real" people around her are eating or drinking. She should watch their table manners, and remember she is not a "diesel dyke" or a truck driver, and shouldn't carry on like one. Table manners and eating style are personal habits that tell a lot about an individ-

ual. Loading up one's plate with two sandwiches and a man's full meal is a dead giveaway. Others work hard to do these things in a manner appropriate with their dress (male or female) because they and others around them care.

Example #3: Lack of regard for the person or gender you are emulating.

CD people are often accused of doing what they do because they are not supposed to like women. As everyone knows, that's the farthest thing from the truth. However, if CD people can't take the time to dress and behave properly for the setting that they are in, are they not lowering our role models? Do they not only bring disrespect on everyone in our culture, but on many women as well? Do they not in fact show their absolute lack of sensitivity for the women of the world and are they thus not earning a measure of well-deserved disgust and contempt for both their individual selves and all their sisters?

This issue goes on into other public dress and manner issues. It can be summed up as not caring about how we look and carry ourselves when in fact CD people know and can do better.

Don't mistake this for an attack on the novice. I am talking about the CD who consistently comes to events of a somewhat public nature in sloppy, dirty, or wrinkled attire, dirty or unstyled hair, who eats like a boilerman on shore leave. I am talking about the CD who abuses the rights of non-CD people in hotels and public restrooms. Many of the national CD leaders, some of whom are dear personal friends, put their personal reputations on the line to tell intelligent listeners that CD people are normal people with a different hobby. When those listeners are then exposed to what I have described above, then all those efforts are wasted. When well-known leaders bare their soul on Geraldo, Donahue, Sally Jessy, or local media shows, it is every CD's obligation to not contradict what they have just said.

Example #4: The CD or TS who feels free to, and does, publicly attack some other member of their community for their sexual preference or worse, for their open intolerant attitude about others' sexual preferences.

Is there any place where freedom of thought and expression is more fundamental than in our community?

Example #5: The CD person who attempts to "legislate" the behavior of others on matters for which they have no personal authority, or for that matter, standing to do so.

Example #6: The CD or TS who lacks the humility to recognize where they were "ages" ago before they became so expert and "without flaws", and then proceeds to rip a novice apart instead of getting in and helping her.

Example #7: The TS or CD (notice I am alternating) who takes from the community and gives nothing in return or takes on only the high profile, high visibility roles and does not "labor in the fields".

There are so many more examples, that it defies the imagination. I could go on for quite a while. Everyone in the CD/TS community is an individual seeking to express her or his role and personality in many ways. That is normal and has to be allowed. However, just as the right to free speech does not mean the right to "yell fire in a crowded theater", freedom of expression does not mean the right to embarrass or expose others to ridicule, harassment or physical danger. That may well be the consequences of the kinds of action described in my examples above.

Another possible consequence is the creation of dissension and splintering within the CD/TS community. This can only set us back or destroy the gains so hard won over the past twenty years.

Although my comments are for the advanced crossdresser or transsexual, I am not ignoring the novice or beginning person who is just coming out. Quite the contrary. There are many avenues through which these members can grow. Yet, even through these avenues many novices recognize that they have to pay attention to the "little things". Their makeup is not perfect, or their clothes do not fit right, or whatever. That is common, and they are usually in a situation where they can receive help in dealing with these problems. However, my concern is that situation where the person knows, and doesn't care, or won't take the time to do it right. They have been that way for years, and frankly don't care.

During a recent 'BE ALL' in Pittsburgh, I encountered a person claiming to be a pre-op TS. Many people had approached this person to offer some quiet advice during the first couple of days. Her clothes were unkempt, and in one case, she smelled of body odor, and her hair needed work. A vendor offered to give her help at no charge. In an elevator, I mentioned to her that she had some long facial hairs she might not know about. Each of us was snapped at, and although I was later apologized to, there was no change. Later one evening, she appeared in a gorgeous diaphanous gown and I thought to myself, "too bad you didn't leave your attitude and manner with the bellman until the conference was over". The issue is not just what she lost during the conference, it's the mistakes and their effect that will come as outsiders are exposed to this "man in a dress", which will not change despite the paint, electrolysis or pretty clothes.

This community has so many people who have advanced their skill and appearance through the helping hand of others (including this writer) that they in turn will help at the mere asking. It is therefore not a problem. As for the person who has progressed so far that they can't be bothered with the "little people", or they seek to control others, I can only say "you haven't come very far, baby!". In fact, you may be retrogressing, just don't drag our good people who care back with you!

No one is too good or too polished to learn from others, to listen to others, or most importantly, to help others! I maintain that in the outside world you are what people see, smell, hear,and sense. Why not give out the signals that say "I am woman" or "I am man", "and I am proud." It isn't impossible, it just takes attention and caring about yourself, and most of all, caring about others.

[end]

RELIGIOUS EDITORIAL:

AN ANSWER TO FREEDOM

by
Jacqueline Thon (MI-M0878)

Being a religious theologian for many years, I have formulated what may be the answers to perplexing thoughts of transvestites' and transsexuals' relationship to God.

Let us first examine the historical biblical background which many religious authorities use in an all-out attempt to condemn TV's and TS's alike.

The main verse that is used in the Old Testament which religious authorities point to is Deut. 22:5, which prohibits people from crossdressing. What society fails to realize is that in ancient biblical times, the Jewish nation had certain traditions and customs that the Levitical Priests had enforced on them as they couldn't even wear blended fabrics or eat certain sea foods (Lev. 11: 6,10-12); (Lev. 17: 10) and (Deut. 22:11). In the New Testament we read where God, in a vision to Peter, reveals that it is alright to eat the very things that had once been prohibited (Acts 10: 9-23). (See The New American Bible Saint Joseph Edition for all biblical references.) This shows a contrast from the old laws to the new laws.

Moses couldn't have written these laws for which the Old Testament had sanctioned regarding these ritual observances at it was put in charge of the Levitical Priests which was a set of secular legal mores called the "Holiness Code." Yet, we find that only the Ten Commandments had transferred to the new covenant (which incidentally is the standard for perfect love). Nevertheless, before and even after the Holiness Code, there was what is known as fertility cults which men and women (being married as strict norms of adherence) were living dual life-styles by going to pagan temples that were noted for fertility worship, thinking themselves to gain material blessings though such participation. How they participated was by having sexual relationships with the High Priestess as a form of worship to the Mother Goddess. But also, the worshippers would engage in sexual orgies. Worshipping a false Goddess in itself was idolatrous which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and the only sin that cannot be forgiven. Because some of the members were crossdressed, the Levitical Priests (who knew of these activities) lumped the crossdressing right along with idolatrous worship as an abomination. (Abomination by itself is the sin of cultic idolatry as spiritual adultery.)

Now we can begin to see more clearly the injustice in the denunciation of crossdressing. Jesus never denounced anyone for what attire they wore; if anything was mentioned, it was that Jesus had said not to worry about what we eat or what we would put on: (Luke 12: 22-23; and Mark 7: 17-23).

So why does society continue to denounce crossdressers? I am inclined to believe it is basically due to a lack of understanding, and unfortunately the Pope himself may misunderstand these reasonings. Nevertheless, here is just another example of fundamental misunderstanding: (I Corinthians 11: 14); "Does not nature itself teach you that it is dishonorable for a man to wear his hair long?" If this is to be taken literally then I guess Jesus had better hurry and get a crew-cut from Vidal Sasoon. This is no more relevant than to say that women should wear veils and keep silent in the church. These were just some of St. Paul's personal opinions of observance.

After the Jewish people were brought into exile (539-587 B.C.) the Persians had many mores which subjected the people to legal ritual observances, and they detested anyone who didn't adhere to these secular laws, as masculinity was highly respected while femininity was thought of as no more than chattel.

In retrospect, and even today cultic worship is going on in the Satanic cults, and no doubt, this type of worship is what St. Paul had witnessed when we read in Romans I: 17-32. Once again, it amounts to idolatrous worship that condemned these people (homosexual and heterosexual alike) as committing spiritual adultery against the Holy Spirit. Sexual sins can be forgiven however, and the clothing that one wears has no bearing on what is righteous or unrighteous.

It may bewilder many people to realize that God's nature is actually androgynous as the God-Head being masculine and the Holy Spirit being feminine, and Jesus having a blended nature of both. What may bewilder people even more so is the

fact that there is a fish (the swordtail) which can actually change its whole anatomy from female to male, and it's no mistake of nature that God has created such remarkable creatures.

In conclusion, the next time society (not to generalize) thinks to cleverly persecute TV's, TS's, homosexuals, bisexuals, and even trisexuals (they'll try anything), let your answers to these perplexing questions be: "I know with certainty on the authority of the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself: it is only when a man thinks something unclean that it becomes so for him." (Romans 14:14)

- END -

EDITORIAL:

(Those of you who read issue #55, read an opinion by K.J. Moore. K.J. is a professional journalist, and has a masters degree in Criminal Justice. Being married to a crossdresser [me], and working in a "man's world" day by day gives her a unique perspective on gender issues. Her style of writing is BLUNT, but rarely misunderstood. She will make you think, which is her purpose. - Leslie G.)

A MARRIED TRANSVESTITE IS NEVER ALONE

by K.J. Moore

A married transvestite is never alone -- but his spouse might be.

There are a few people who can cross-dress, go out into their community and enjoy themselves, and never worry about being recognized as a man in woman's clothing or a woman dressed as a man. They are either better known as their second selves or they have the advantage of anonymity that life in a large city provides. These few are very, very lucky.

Then, there are the rest -- cross-dressers who must keep what they do a secret from their communities, their bosses, their co-workers and even their closest friends. Discovery would mean loss of job, harassment, destruction of social status and security, and, in some of the more old-fashioned parts of this country, the possibility of physical danger. Because of that, these individuals must cope with a "guilty little secret" and must live in fear that someone, somehow, will find out. Their situation is comparable to the one still faced by many homosexuals.

A married cross-dresser has an additional situation to face -- should he tell his spouse, or shouldn't he? If he chooses to tell her, he risks rejection, as evidenced by the many divorce stories found in publications like 'Tapestry'. If rejection does not occur, will he find acceptance or merely tolerance? That depends on the spouse and how much and what type of information about transvestism has been provided to that individual. Either way, the spouse shares his secret.

A wife who has to face the fact that her husband wears female clothing and gets pleasure from doing so also has to face the fact that if she loves her man, she must keep his secret. I know. I married a cross-dresser. And, I love him no matter how unorthodox his habits may seem to me.

One thing I cannot love is the secrecy. I make my husband's clothing for him, I set aside time for him to dress and I shop for him. I talk with him about the Tri-Ess meetings he attends and will eventually attend one with him -- but I need to have someone else to talk to other than this man who smiles at me through red lipstick. Sometimes, one simply cannot discuss a problem with coping with the very person who is directly causing that problem. A third party is needed (badly) for a sounding board. Who would discuss a need for a pay raise with the boss before discussing it with a third party? The situations are similar, because I know I as a spouse would prefer to discuss some of my views on cross-dressing with somebody before I discuss them with my husband, if only to avoid upsetting him with something poorly worded.

I had a confidant at first, a gay friend. He no longer lives nearby, and has problems of his own. I attempted to discuss the matter with the only other person in whom I have complete trust; she prefers to believe that my husband will eventually see the light and give up cross-dressing, although I have told her more than once that cross-dressers never stop completely. Besides, I love my spouse enough that I do not want him to stop anything unless he wants to stop it, although I have given him some restrictions.

I did not want to restrict him, but I had to do it to maintain secrecy. And, now that I have no one to talk with, at least no one I trust not to tell the secret, my only way to vent frustration is to either discuss my feelings with a person who is the product of her environment and does not provide me with constructive comments, or just not talk to anyone at all. How many other wives are in this boat with me? It's a boat without paddles, too, because any time we say anything about cross-dressing, we risk discovery. By risking discovery, we risk major changes in our lives, and those changes are highly unlikely to be pleasant.

My lady friend did suggest mental health counseling. I think she meant for my cross-dressing partner, but I called a local mental health hotline anyway. I found it had been disconnected for lack of volunteers: AIDS programs are the volunteer vogue now and mental health is no longer in style. When I finally contacted a couple of counselors, I found most beyond my income level. The few I actually spoke with on the telephone were very polite, but not sure they could help me. They suggested my husband get counseling instead of me.

Keeping this secret makes me feel trapped. If I have the occasional problem coping with it and can't go to my spouse, I can't get help. My problem is shared by many wives who live in small towns where the nearest support group is a couple of hours' drive away. Besides, most of them have no program for wives anyway. This trapped feeling leads to resentment, and the next step in the natural progression of emotions is ANGER. One does not need to be a psychologist to know that, and since anger is bound to show up sooner or later, the question is not "if", it's "when". One can diffuse anger with help, but that help should not always come from the person who caused the anger, whether he did so intentionally or unintentionally.

There is, too, the problem of how the cross-dressing husband may react. Whenever I tell my Leslie about negative feelings I have, he gets extremely upset and feels guilty. Everyone associated with cross-dressers knows they usually have more than enough guilt without having their partners add more.

All of these things contribute to cause the wife to feel alone. The knowledge that there are hundreds or thousands of other wives with the same problem does not help very much. She has no way of knowing who they are unless she goes to a support group meeting, and she has no idea how to contact any of them.

The first comment anyone who has read this far is going to make is: "Go to a support group meeting with your husband. You will be welcome there." Well, I may be welcome, but I am still reluctant to go. Why? Because I have no chance of anonymity. Leslie can hide behind his wig and make-up, but I will be clearly recognizable. I am a professional, and I too have a career at risk. I did not ask to be part of cross-dressing culture, so I often have doubts about taking the risk. If my husband is found out, I have his permission to pretend ignorance in order to preserve at least one income in the family, but I cannot do this if I am seen by the wrong parties at one of these meetings. And, what if I meet one of my superiors from work and he decides to get rid of me because I know? Wives have to think about these things.

One's first experience with meeting other cross-dressers should be carefully controlled. If the cross-dresser is wise, he will want to encourage support. Without going into details, I will admit that I have been scarred by an unfavorable experience -- my husband took me to meet one of his support group leaders, who took us into a restaurant and promptly announced in a loud voice, "We're two men in women's clothes but it's okay, we're straight. See, this one has a real woman with him and they're married." I felt used, as though I had been brought along only to make cross-dressing seem legitimate, not to learn how to support my husband. My husband, on the other hand, got an excellent reception on his first meeting with other cross-dressers and received many cards and letters afterward from the people he met. He still acts as though he does not understand why I will not associate with the individual who made that grossly indiscrete announcement in a place Leslie and I had never been able to check out for ourselves -- and are unlikely to ever set foot in again. He understands that I felt victimized but not why I am slow to renew my acquaintance with the support group leader, who compounded the situation by telling me he needs my help because there are no wives in the group.

I also detest secrecy because secrecy breeds lying, and one must have an extremely good memory to keep track of lies in order to get away them. Leslie has shared the story of being caught in a lie with others. He tells them of going to a certain shop to look for an item of clothing, saying it was a gift for his wife, who wore a size 20. About a month later, I was in a wedding and the bride chose that shop to supply dresses for the event. I am a size 10 and have been since I attained my full height almost 15 years ago; needless to say, I was extremely puzzled when the clerk remarked to Leslie how wonderful it was that I had lost so much weight since he had bought me a "gift" I didn't even know about. We still fight about the incident from time to time.

Gentlemen, in small enough towns, lies will get back to your spouses. Before you invent things, you need to confer with your marriage partner to get your stories straight. She may be called upon to collaborate, as I was once when I used our standard, "He's at an out-of-town business meeting" while he was telling people he was visiting a relative. If I had not kept my head and been very inventive, it would have been a very close call indeed. And, please spare your wives' feelings by not inventing lies that are insulting to her; she wants your respect, and insults, even if not stated directly to her, are disrespectful.

Lying as little as possible would be the best solution, but many people still feel they need alibis for that time they spend dressed as someone else. But, as cross-dressers and their marriage partners, we must live a lie because few of us live in circumstances where our husbands can go en femme in public without a risk. We want everyone to think we have "normal" households because we are under constant pressure to conform to society's standards.

I once read in a psychology book that most liars eventually reveal themselves to someone and confess that lie, whether it is to a minister, a

counselor, a spouse, a close friend or a stranger. Studies have been done on convicted felons; although they claimed innocence at their trials, eventually most of them will confess to a cellmate or an inmate in a nearby prison cell.

Cross-dressers' wives have no cell-mates to whom they can confess. They are in solitary confinement, and that spelled a different way means they are ALONE.

The married cross-dresser who has a sympathetic or tolerant wife may not be able to talk with her all the time either, but at least he has the pleasure of his cross-dressing. I understand something is being done toward organizing a group for wives on a national level, but until then, who can we call upon for help?

- END -

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Events of Regional interest, or larger. If you would like your event listed, or have an announcement made in the Bulletin Board, or in the Congress of Representatives Update, please send your information to: Tapestry, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

January 12, 1991
7th Annual 'MISS ETVC COTILLION'
ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 415-763-3959

January 18-20, 1991
'HOPEFUL', a weekend retreat for couples
Outreach Institute, P.O. Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215 617-277-3454

January 24-27, 1991
9th Annual 'WINTER GET-AWAY'
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

February 22-24, 1991
3rd Annual 'TEXAS T-PARTY'
Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652-T, San Antonio, TX 78280 512-657-2540

March 9, 1991
'LAMBDA BALL'
Transpitt, Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

March 16, 1991
5th Annual 'NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS'
Imperial Court of New York, c/o Ben Freeman, 200 East 16th Street, Suite 2M, NYC, NY 10003 212-673-7633

April 8-14, 1991
5th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Denver
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

May 2-5, 1991
1st Annual 'CALIFORNIA DREAMIN"
PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 714-779-9013

May 3-5, 1991
'WEEKEND EN FEMME IN HOUSTON'
GCTC, c/o Jackie Thorne, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244

May 10-12, 1991
'POCONOS FANTASY FESTIVAL'
Fem Fashions, 9W 31st St, #7R, NYC, NY 10001 212-629-5750

May 17-19, 1991
'PARADISE IN THE POCONOS'
Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9449

May 15-19, 1991
'ESPRIT 91'
Esprit 91, P.O. Box 55874, Seattle, WA 98155

May 28-June 2, 1991
11th Annual 'PROVINCETOWN OUTING'
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

July 22-26, 1991
'THE DIGNITY CRUISE' (Caribbean)
(sponsored by PM Publishers) Cruise Ahoy, Anne McLaughlin, President, 11211 Katy Freeway, #300, Houston, TX 77079 713-556-1513

June 5-9, 1991
9th Annual 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE', Cleveland
Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129

September 20-22, 1991
SYMPOSIUM FOR THE NEW WOMAN (post-op TS)
Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215 617-277-3454

September 20-22, 1991
'PARADISE IN THE POCONOS'
Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9949

October 3-6, 1991
1st Annual 'SOUTHERN COMFORT'
Sigma Epsilon, Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7241

October 11-13, 1991
8th Annual 'P-TOWN COUPLES OUTING'
TCNE-WSG, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

October 18-27, 1991
17th Annual 'FANTASIA FAIR'
Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215 617-277-3454

October 25-27, 1991
'DRESSING FOR PLEASURE '91'
Marie Constance, Constance Enterprises, Box 43277, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 201-746-0072

October 26, 1991
32nd Annual 'GGRC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL'
Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA

October 31 - November 3, 1991
'FALL HARVEST WEEKEND' & Moonshadow Ball
CAF, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

November 1-3, 1991
4th Annual 'INTER-GROUP HARMONY WEEKEND', England
Martine Rose, P.O. Bx 339, Sheffield S1 3SX England

November 20-24, 1991
17th Annual 'TRI-ESS HOLIDAY EN FEMME'
Chi Chapter, P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'MISS CGS PAGEANT'
CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ', Banquet
Chi Chapter, Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040

April 6-12, 1992
6th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, San Antonio
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

June 11-14, 1992
10th Annual 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE', Detroit
Crossroads, Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

March (TBA), 1993
7th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Philadelphia
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

❄❄❄❄❄ I.F.G.E. PUBLICATIONS - REPRINTS ❄❄❄❄❄

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(IFGE Publication Reprint List Issue #57)

BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS

PASTEUR JOSEPH DOUCE MURDERED!

Paris, France 11/90: On November 5, 1990, Phaedra Kelly (Director of 'Gender Transient Affinity', on the Isle of Wight, Great Britain), reported that Pasteur Joseph Douce, a Flemish born gay Baptist minister, founder of The Centre of Christ du Liberateur (CCL), had been abducted, and was feared dead. On November 21, 1990, Pasteur Douce's death was confirmed in a letter from Sal Carbone.

In a report sent to 'Passages', a newsletter published by 'The Gathering' of New York, Phaedra stated that Pasteur Douce founded CCL in Paris fifteen years ago. CCL currently houses two of the largest international TV/TS groups in Europe. Pasteur Douce was trained in sexology and psychology on a grant from the World Council of Churches. He established CCL as a way of bringing the gospel to all sexual minorities: gay, bi, S&M, TV/TS, etc. CCL housed these groups at its headquarters in Place de Clinchy, published and sold books and magazines, and offered counsel and a church service and mean every month.

Two months ago three persons, representing themselves as police inspectors, visited CCL's shop and jostled and insulted customers. They then called on Douce and his lover, Guy Bondar, late at night, but were refused entry. Douce called the uniform branch emergency number, but when the police unit came, the alleged inspectors had fled.

Later, two of the alleged inspectors returned for Douce and he left with them, not saying where he was going. Three weeks later, the body of Pasteur Douce was found in the woods.

(Exact details of his death are not available at this time. We would greatly appreciate any additional information that could be provided. Pasteur Douce's death is a tragedy for us all. -- ED)

-30-

INTRODUCING MAGGIE

by Nancy Cole

Kansas City, MO 11/90: On Sunday, November 4th, at the Howard Johnson's in Kansas City, as the 'Fall Harvest, Mid-America's first major event, was winding down, the future of the CD/TS community in Mid-America was discussed.

The leadership of four Mid-America organizations, Jennifer Richards of the St. Louis Gender Foundation (SLGF), Anna Appleby of the Iowa Artistry, Rena Geise of the River City of Omaha, and Stephanie Campbell of the Crossdressers and Friends (CAF) of Kansas City, met with Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). Jennifer Jones from the Central Illinois Gender Association (CIGA) served as recording secretary, and Nancy Cole of CAF served as moderator. The discussion concerned the establishment of a regional organization designed to support and coordinate the activities of all Mid-American gender support groups and organizations. The meeting addressed how we, in Mid-America, could best organize ourselves and our talents to better serve the community at the local, regional, and national levels.

The result of the discussion was the creation of a confederation called the Mid-America Gender Group and Information Exchange (MAGGIE). MAGGIE is a non-funded regional communications and support system, open to all gender groups in the Mid-American region. The purpose and goals of MAGGIE discussed and agreed upon are:

- The free pooling and exchange of marketing, educational, and talent resources within and available to our community throughout Mid-America.

- The sponsoring of an annual regional event (Fall Harvest).

- Provide a means for the coordination of activities and events of local support groups and organizations in Mid-America.

Assist in the recruitment and directing of membership to appropriate organizations throughout Mid-America.

- Encourage the growth of individuals through participation in local and regional events.

The idea of freely exchanging information and talents in Mid-America is not new. For instance, the SLGF has been actively encouraging what they call "Hands Across Missouri" with the idea that SLGF and CAF could do more for the community together than alone. CAF for it's part has encouraged road trips to both Omaha and Iowa, not only for their enjoyment but also to share and learn. With the formation of MAGGIE, such activities will become more frequent and effective.

The idea of providing a means for the coordination of activities and events of local support groups in Mid-America will be an important part of MAGGIE's work. To begin this effort, a calendar listing all known national events as well as the events of support groups associated with MAGGIE will be created and distributed to local organizations for distribution to their membership.

Another important part of MAGGIE's work will be to reach out to people seeking a support group, and help them find the program that best fits their needs. By working together and becoming familiar with the orientation and purpose of each organization within MAGGIE, the leadership

of each local group can direct new members to the organization nearest them or that best suits their needs. In addition, when members from MAGGIE travel to national events, they can find people living in Mid-America and recruit and direct those people to appropriate organizations.

Finally, groups associated with MAGGIE will be able to expand their ability to encourage the growth of individuals within their own groups through participation in events held and sponsored by other MAGGIE groups. By traveling to the events of other organizations in other towns, the membership will not only be able to help and participate in the events, but they will be provided a growth opportunity in a more secure environment (further away from home).

To get MAGGIE moving, organization of the MAGGIE council will be small and simple. It was agreed that the president of each associated organization, or her representative, and a recording secretary will be the MAGGIE council. Further modifications of this will be made as they become necessary.

If the enthusiasm of those who met on Sunday, November 4, is any indication, then MAGGIE has a bright and promising future. Not only will MAGGIE be a success, but the local groups and their members will grow stronger, better, and become more complete.

-30-

I.F.G.E. HONORED,
Recipient of the E.B.P. 'Freedom Award' for 1990

Waltham, MA 11/20/90: On November 20, 1990, the International Foundation for Gender Education received the E.B.P. 'Freedom Award', a 'Certificate of Appreciation', and the following letter:

DEAR FRIENDS ACROSS THE SEA: On behalf of the members of the Elaine Barrie Project of Altona, Victoria, Australia, I am most happy to inform you that your organization has been selected to be the recipient of the annual E.B.P. Award of the Year, the 'Freedom Award', for 1990.

The actual presentation was made in absentia on the 27th of October, 1990, at our Annual Awards Presentation night. The award and the certificate of appreciation are for your most commendable efforts on behalf of all transpersons wherever they may be.

Like the I.F.G.E., the E.B.P. is dedicated to making life easier for transpersons, irrespective of where they may reside in this weary old world of ours.

In conclusion, and on behalf of all of us 'Down Under', we wish the International Foundation for Gender Education the very best for 1991 and beyond. Congratulations on your achievements in the past, and all that the I.F.G.E. will undoubtedly achieve in the future.

Most sincerely,
Elaine Barrie

-30-

IFGE Staff: (L-R) Merissa Sherrill Lynn (Exec. Dir.), Yvonne Cook (Dir. of Op.), Holly Cross (Corres.) with the 'Freedom Award' and Certificate

** IFGE BULLETIN **

RUPERT RAJ RESIGNS

IFGE has received a letter from Rupert Raj (BD '89-'91) informing us of his resignation from the IFGE Board of Directors. Rupert has served our community for over 20 years, and now, according to his letter, he wants to retire and concentrate on career and family. We at IFGE want to extend our heart-felt gratitude to Rupert for his long years of service, and we all wish him happiness and success.

-30-

Transsexual Wrongly Fired by Boing

SEATTLE, Wash. (UPI) — The trial of an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by a former software engineer fired from the Boeing Co. when he began showing up at work in female garb has begun in King County Superior Court.

The plaintiff, who has undergone a sex-change operation since being fired in 1985, is identified only as Jane Doe in court documents. The court allowed her to file the case under a pseudonym to protect her identity. She is suing for unspecified monetary damages.

The engineer was discharged while still a male after he began wearing female clothes to work and using women's restrooms.

"I was discharged for dressing as a female," the 35-year-old plaintiff alleged in a court affidavit.

Doe's supervisor at Boeing Computer Services was more specific in court documents about why the engineer was discharged after he showed up for work Nov. 5, 1985.

"The item I particularly remember was a set of pink pearls that, in conjunction with the rest of her outfit, made her attire unacceptable," Robert Masters told Judge Pro Tem Fred Rasmussen.

The plaintiff, dressed in a navy skirt, blue jacket, pumps and earrings Monday, alleged she was terminated because she suffered from a mental problem known as gender dysphoria, which resulted in sexual and psychological confusion. She now works at a government agency.

Her attorney, Kelby Fletcher of Seattle, said Doe had a sex-change operation after leaving Boeing.

Boeing lawyers declined to comment on the case. But Boeing spokesman Paul Binder said, "Our position is that this is not a handicap under the classical definition, and we did reasonably accommodate this person prior to the surgery."

The company told Doe she could wear only unisex clothes on the job. And because of privacy reasons, she was forbidden to use women's restrooms, Boeing officials said.

The plaintiff noted that her work had been praised by her bosses before the surgery. The defense indicated that some 15 co-workers signed a petition asking that Doe be retained by Boeing.

The engineer joined Boeing in 1978 and was awarded security clearance to work on classified projects during her employment by the company.

-30-

The IFGE Educational Resources Committee announces a historical research project entitled:

TRACKING OUR PAST; AN EXCURSION INTO THE HISTORY OF TV/TS ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Nancy Cole, the project's coordinator, states, "In order to capture the history of individual organizations and the collective story of how these organizations came into existence and grew, IFGE is sponsoring an unprecedented historical survey of TV and TS organizations. Our purpose is to create a comprehensive history of TV/TS organizations from 1950 to the present."

"The goals are: (1) To capture the story of individual organizations and the people who formed and led them. (2) To collect comprehensive, accurate, and detailed information on the history of TV/TS organizations around the world that will serve as a permanent record. (3) To provide our community and those who work with us a complete and comprehensive historically based education resource."

Nancy goes on to state, "This exercise will be no easy matter. It can, however, be fun and educational for all participants. This is a long-term project. What we need for starters is one person to receive the initial data, file it, and acknowledge it's receipt. A best case scenario would be if one or two people of quality step forth and volunteer to fill the role of amateur historians. In that case, they can then begin to sift through the data and move to the next step of follow-up interviews and creation of an initial form and format of the history."

"Concerning final publication, my aim is for the mass market. I believe, if the product is better than good, and done properly, we can get a major publisher to publish this book."

Merissa Lynn, Executive Director of IFGE, adds, "The benefits of a complete and comprehensive documentation of our own history is immeasurable. The contributions of those who came before us would never be forgotten. The lessons they had to teach us would never be forgotten. This is a

project that will require community-wide cooperative action, which in itself will help bring our community together. It will be of obvious benefit to us all, not just for today, but for generations to come. Such a publication would be far more relevant than anything that has been done before not only to those of us who are members of our community, but to those who want a real understanding of the CD/TS phenomena. No book has ever been written that give anyone a **real** understanding of who we are, from where we have come, and why. I believe this project is one of the most important projects that has yet been proposed."

Anyone interested in becoming involved in this project may write: **IFGE Historical Committee, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778**

Or may contact Nancy direct: **N. Cole, P.O. Box 241, Leavenworth, KS 66048**

-30-

** PRESS RELEASE **
The Phoenix Society, South Africa

Diane Marlene Knoetze Elected Leader for Life

The Founder and current President of the Phoenix Society of South Africa, Diane Marlene Knoetze, has been elected by members of the Society to the position of Permanent Life President. This token gesture is in appreciation of all that she has achieved in bringing acceptance and understanding of the TV/TS condition to others through the medium of the Phoenix Society since its inception a decade ago.

From the day Phoenix came into being, Diane Marlene has devoted just about every moment of her time (after earning a living and family responsibilities) to the Phoenix Society, the well-being of its members, the aims of the Society, and the TV/TS world at large.

Diane has edited, produced, and published the Phoenix Society's magazine 'Fanfare'. It is through her often single-handed efforts that 'Fanfare' has become an influential publication, respected throughout the world. This achievement is made all the more remarkable by the fact Diane's native language is not English, but Afrikaans.

Gentle, concerned, and kind as Diane Marlene is, she has the willpower and determination of her ancestors who pioneered this country and who held at bay the might of Queen Victoria's Empire. It is this determination that has caused Phoenix to survive, to grow, and to flourish.

The recognition that our President has now been given is long overdue.

It is also hoped that the unsung heroine, and backroom girl of Phoenix, Diane's loving and supportive wife Sanette, will look upon her husband's election as recognition of her efforts as well, for without Sanette's support and involvement, the Phoenix Society might well not exist.

-30-

Diane Marlene Knoetz, Founder/President Phoenix Society, South Africa

BULLETIN

CRUISE PLANNED for CD'S and their PARTNERS

Peggy Rudd, author of 'My Husband Wears My Clothes', and Melanie, both of PM Publishers, are sponsoring a cruise for CD's and their SO's. They are working out the details now, but hope to have a five-day cruise with a good price on the Nordic Empress - one of the Royal Caribbean Lines newest ships. They seem to have no problem accepting and planning for a group of CD's and their SO's and family members. Crossdressing will be optional at any of the scheduled activities on board.

Peggy and Melanie state that the Nordic Empress is one of the most beautiful ships they have seen. It sails out of Miami on Mondays to the Bahamas, returning on Friday -

4 nights. They are trying to arrange for the June 10th sailing date. This cruise can be an add-on for those attending the 'BE ALL' convention held one week earlier.

For additional information, contact: **PM Publishers, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, TX 77449**

-30-

****BULLETIN****

PPOC and THE VALLEY GIRLS To Sponsor Weekend Outing In Southern California May 2 - May 5, 1991

Wendy Parker, of the Powder Puffs of California, announces plans for a "first time ever" weekend outing in beautiful downtown Burbank.

The weekend, called **'CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'**, will be co-sponsored by PPOC and the Valley Girls clubs, and held May 2-5, 1991, at the new, beautiful Holiday Inn, Burbank.

The planned events include tours of Universal Studios, Rodeo Drive (shopping), and of course Frederick's of Hollywood 'Bra' Museum. There will be nights out, FI shows, how-to workshops, discussion groups, lectures, slide shows, and dancing 'til dawn.

For additional information contact: **The Valley Girls, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 818-762-7659, or, PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 714-779-9013 (weekdays 7-10 pm)**

-30-

****BULLETIN****
WOMEN ASSOCIATED with CROSS-DRESSERS (WACS)
Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

We are proud to announce a new publication exclusively for the partners of cross-dressers. Our primary goal is to explore our feelings, concerns and attitudes about cross-dressing. We also want to learn about ourselves. What makes us feel the way we do about ourselves, and the men in our lives?

If you are the partner of a cross-dresser, we want to know your feelings, and how you handle your situation. Expressing yourself in print will also help other women similarly situated. Hopefully this newsletter will become a forum where we can share our inner-most feelings and thoughts. We want you to know that you are not alone. There are thousands of women at every level of acceptance and non-acceptance. Please feel free to write and SHARE your problems and thoughts.

-30-

Tri-Ess' FIESTA Chapter introduces its new collection policy for dues and meeting fees. Compliance is said to be at an all-time high. Renewals too.
(photo: Donna Mobley, model: Christie Lea)

**** PRESS RELEASE ****
St. Louis Gender Foundation
P.O. Box 8433, St. Louis, MO 63117
314-567-8615

St. L.G.F., is a six year old organization for male to female crossdressers and transsexuals, has expanded to change its name to the **St. Louis Gender Foundation**, effective immediately. Sanctified by the International Foundation for Gender Education, St.L.G.F., formerly the St. Louis Gateway Femmes, broadens its membership to welcome and include female to male crossdressers and transsexuals as well as friends, relatives, and professionals of the cross gender community.

St.L.G.F. meets monthly in a private, social atmosphere at a leading hotel to provide support, shared professional knowledge, and confidence building. Activities include grooming and make-up classes, guest speakers, electrolysis information, fashion and talent shows with business meetings. Gender meetings and socials are led by a cross-dressed Board of Directors. Numerous top wig, make-up, and fashion professionals, as well as law officers, counselors, and medical experts have contacted the Foundation.

The St. Louis community needs to know that there is a vibrant, professional and caring group for people in conflict," stated the organization's president Jennifer Richards. She continued, "You've seen us on Oprah and Donahue. We allow an opportunity for both males and females to express freely their honest feelings with no sexual commitment or embarrassment."

St. L.G.F. members total 70 with a mailing of over 150, a significant number of those from the heterosexual community. Membership information is kept confidential.

- 30 -

**** BULLETIN ****
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach
777 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 3114
Honolulu, HI 96813 808-529-5634

I'd like to introduce you to Hawaii Transgendered Outreach. We are a non-profit support and social group of TV's and TS's. I believe we are the first such group in our State. Our membership is open to all TV's and TS's subject to a meeting with group leaders. We hold two meetings a month at a private residence. Please contact us.

- 30 -

**** PRESS RELEASE ****
AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724 404-325-7055 (eve.)

Atlanta, GA: We are pleased to announce the formation of AEGIS -- **the Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service.**

The purpose of AEGIS is to provide information, referrals, and other assistance to gender dysphoric persons in the multi-county Metro Atlanta area. While we deny service to no one, our primary thrust is toward transgenderal and transsexual persons, giving them the "how to" and "where to go" information they need. Our charges are nominal, as AEGIS is a non-profit organization. There is no fee for referrals or for basic information. We will be there for those who need us.

We will be publishing a magazine, Chrysalis Quarterly, which will address topics of interest to all. The themes of the first two issues of CQ are 'Transition and Health', and 'How To Be A Good Consumer of Gender Services'. We will be offering other publications at a later date.

AEGIS is professionally run and operated. We follow the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. We seek to actively work with sister organizations throughout the United States. We will exchange newsletters with interested parties; we support the planned Southeaster regional meeting.

Sincerely,
Ms Dallas Denny, Exec. Dir. AEGIS

'Miss Fall Harvest 1990"
'Miss Monica Lawrence'

The 'Miss Fall Harvest' competition was based on four criterion: Street wear, evening gowns, talent, and on thoughtful answers to questions posed by the MC. Miss Lawrence was selected by a panel of judges from over a dozen outstanding candidates.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION
CONTRIBUTIONS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1990

POLICY:

Contributions are an important source of revenue to IFGE. These funds enable IFGE to provide the necessary human and capital resources to serve the needs of our community. IFGE does not benefit from government, public, or United Way monies. It is entirely supported by revenue generated from the sale of publications, programs, and contributions.

All contributions are tax deductible, with receipt gratefully acknowledged, and kept totally confidential if the donor so desires. The contribution may be designated by the donor to any of the four funds described below, or be used for a specified purpose (such as a scholarship, or research grant). IFGE accepts cash, checks, Visa/MasterCard, or stock or bond assignments.

Remembering IFGE in your estate planning, will, or trust is a loving gesture which will permit us to build a significant trust fund to meet our community's needs for the next decade and beyond.

Living Memorials: Living memorials are sent to I.F.G.E. in memory of departed sisters, brothers, family members, and friends. Some memorials and contributions become a part of the permanent Foundation Trust Fund. Other memorials are given to a specified fund. I.F.G.E. wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations who saw fit to remember their loved ones with a contribution to I.F.G.E.'s memorial Funds. These contributions will provide a lasting memorial to the memory of these friends and members of our community.

The Winslow Street Endowment Fund: This fund has been established to provide a strong and permanent financial base. Only the income generated by this fund is used. Contributions to this fund are living contributions.

The Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and to address other transsexual issues.

The IFGE Programs Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the development and presentation of programs such as the international convention, conferences, workshops, seminars, and public speaking engagements.

The IFGE General Fund: This fund has been established to assist with miscellaneous funding needs. These needs include but are not limited to maintaining an office, a staff, purchasing and maintaining capital equipment, assisting IFGE committee projects such as educational resources and marketing, and improving communications with and support of our community's organizations and services.

I.F.G.E. gratefully acknowledges the following contributors:

The Christine Jorgensen Fund

Rachel Celani
Paul Deschenes
Judith Pordon
Wendi Pierce
Nancy O'Reilly
Anonymous (In memory of our brothers and sisters who died of AIDS in 1990)

The Winslow Street Fund

Gayle F. Walsh
Michelle Green
Jane Peabody
R. Britner
P.H. Mason
Thomas Lynch
Wm. Patterson
Arlene Champagne
Sharon McGrath
Nicole Snow, M.D.
T. Gignac (in memory of Theresa Derieg)
Laurence Mullen
Rochester CD Network
Anonymous (in memory of our brothers and sisters who died of AIDS in 1990)

I.F.G.E. wishes to thank those persons who have substantially contributed to its general operations. I.F.G.E. gratefully acknowledges the following members of the **"500 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $500.00 or more), members of the **"1000 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $1000.00 or more), members of the **"2500 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $2500.00 or more), members of the **"5000 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $5000.00 or more), and **"BENEFACTORS"** (accumulated gifts of $10,000.00 or more):

"500 CLUB"

Joe Wallace
Jane Ellen Fairfax
Gessica Johnston
Joseph Giannovario

"1000 CLUB"

Sharon McGrath
Michelle Green
Natalie Peterson
Winnie Brant

"2500 CLUB"

Diane Dixon

"5000 CLUB"

Michelle Miles
Joni Chrissman

"BENEFACTOR"

Anonymous (KS)

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

(Updated December 1990)
(Organizations and services are sorted according to category and zip code)

(For insertions, corrections, and deletions: IFGE Directory, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778)
(New organizations, services, and individuals interested in forming new groups are welcome.)

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 894-8340 FAX (617) 899-5703. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational and service organization designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by that Community.

Services: I.F.G.E. publishes the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme. We sponsor an annual international convention. We serve as an international information and referral clearinghouse, speakers' bureau, and a safe, friendly "drop-in center" for emergency peer counselling and ongoing volunteer work.

IFGE CONGRESS OF REPRESENTATIVES: Congress of Representatives, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 Sonia Gale, Coordinator

Nature: The Congress of Representatives are individuals selected by independent non-profit organizations, services, and chapters to represent the special interests of their organizations. Also, the representatives serve as the communications conduit between their organizations, the IFGE national headquarters, the IFGE Board of Directors, the IFGE national committees, and with other organizations.

TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, Inc.: TCNE, Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888. (508) 358-2305. Ms. Roberta D., President

Nature: Tiffany is a non-profit social and educational organization for anyone desiring to explore and develop their total personality for the attainment of a peace of mind not otherwise possible. Tiffany provides support programs for the individual member, family, and friends.

Services: Tiffany services and activities include but are not limited to publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, operating a safe-house, and organizing "get-togethers", workshops, seminars, and beauty courses. Tiffany sponsors a formal Wives and Significant Others support group, an informal TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, a speakers bureau, and group outings.

Security: Tiffany welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will exercise good manners, use common sense, and protect the security and peace-of-mind of all. Attendees must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee. Alternately, the applicant must present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to insure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's code of conduct and security requirements.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, C/O Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888, (508) 358-2305. Toini McDonald, Director

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing at the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, and other events.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club'.

PINK FLAMINGOS: Pink Flamingos, c/o Lesbian and Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115

Nature: To provide support, advocacy, and outreach, as well as social contacts.

Services: Besides providing emotional and spiritual support, we provide medical referral and involvement in social activities/political advocacy.

Security: none.

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE: Outreach, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. Ariadne Kane, Dir. (617) 277-3454

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit educational corporation. Outreach works primarily with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance and Counselling, Therapy, Medicine, Law and Law Enforcement, Nursing, and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network), seminars and workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning experience for both male and female crossdressers, transsexuals, and androgynes) and a book and publication service. A catalog of books and reprints is available for $5.00. Outreach also offers two information packets: one each for F-M and for M-F TSs at $25.00 each.

Security: Outreach's programs are highly sophisticated and strictly non-sexual. All participants in any Outreach program are expected to behave accordingly.

COUPLES' SUPPORT GROUP: Couples' Support Group, c/o IFGE, 6 Cushing St., 2nd Fl, Waltham, MA 02154 617-894-8340

Nature: A moderated rap group to encourage continuing open communication between two partners in a committed relationship where one partner is a cross-dresser.

Services: Scheduled meetings held on the 3rd Friday of each month, 8-10 p.m. at the IFGE headquarters, 6 Cushing St., Waltham, MA.

Security: Partners do not cross-dress for meetings. Newcomers welcome - please call ahead.

THE ADAM SOCIETY: The Adam Society, c/o Dan Riley, 6 Cushing St., 2nd Fl., Waltham, MA 02154

Nature: A non-profit support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings. Publishes Adam's Word.

Security: Inquire

RHODE ISLAND

THE RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY: c/o Gwendolyn Spencer, P.O. Box 3453, Broadway Station, Newport, R.I. 02840 401-847-1035

Nature: A social and support group for CD's and TS's.

Services: Meets 3rd Saturday of each month. (Due to current Mid-East crisis, activities curtailed until further notice.)

Security: Inquire

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES: See 'Helping Professional' Listings

MAINE

TRANSSUPPORT: TransSupport, Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. In-

quire for time and place. Publishes 'Trans-Talk' newsletter.

Security: Inquire

VERMONT

CONNECTICUT

JO-JO OUTREACH GIRL'S GROUP: c/o P.O. Box 1226, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1226

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social group for "special girls", for M-F CD/TG's.

Services: Social get-togethers, big sister program, self-help improvement.

Security: Discretion required, no drugs or heavy drinking. Inquire.

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB (Hartford, CT): The XX Club, Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138

Nature: The XX Club is non-profit and non-sexual. It is a social, educational, medical, and outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested in or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club publishes a monthly newsletter. It holds two meetings each month (second and fourth Saturdays, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.) at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. The meetings include educational and medical presentations, outreach work, and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, and other events.

Security: We place no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, any person wishing to attend our meetings must meet with and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions respect our anonymity.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT: Karin W., c/o P.O. Box 806, Higganum, CT 06441-0806

Nature: Non-profit support group for genetic girls whose boyfriend, brother, father, husband, or son may be a TV, TS, or gender dysphoric individual.

Services: At this time we offer very discreet correspondence only. However, get-togethers are being planned.

Security: Discretion required.

CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY: P.O. Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

Nature: Non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Punctual response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter 'Connecticut View', Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor assistance available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesy prevail.

HARRIET LANE'S TV SET: P.O. Box 4002, Wallingford, CT 06492 (203) 237-1968 (ask for Harriet Lane or Joanie Lassin)

Nature: Home parties for open-minded TVs, TGs, TSs, and their immediate spouse or friends.

Services: Meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday each month. Membership $100.00 per year. Key members $250.00 (store clothes & have key between 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.). Information on TV activities. Newsletter.

Security: All TVs etc. must dress at the clubhouse. Dressing room provided. Discretion required. Contact Harriet or Joanie for phone interview & personal meeting.

NEW JERSEY

F_2M: c/o S.G., Box 615, Tenafly, NJ 07670.

Nature: A non-profit social and support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. "Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential."

Services: Social events in the New York area, confidential contacts, a comprehensive resource directory, and a newsletter. Compiling information necessary to the F-M transition into a central database. F_2M actively solicits correspondence: questions, concerns, and all items of F-M TS information are requested.

Security: We believe that confidentiality, and often anonymity are critical issues for TSs on our mailing list. All correspondence is considered confidential.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms. Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960; 201-663-0772.

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual.

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in northern NJ. Ms. Frank now handles the TV-related affairs of the dissolved Pine Brook, NJ chapter as well.

Security: Interview required.

TRANSFORMATIONS, Reflections On Gender Roles And Religious/Spiritual Values: Joy Helms, P.O. Box 1355, Princeton, NJ 08542

Nature: A non-profit quarterly newsletter which addresses the relationship between issues relating to gender struggles and religious/spiritual values.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Sigma Nu Rho, P.O. Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

RENAISSANCE - SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Emily Sheldon, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social & support organization serving the gender community.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday each month.

Security: Inquire

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: NYCGA, c/o Fem Fashions, 9 W 31st St, #7R, New York, NY 10001, 212-629-5750. Muriel Olive, Director.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS community.

THE GATHERING: The Gathering, P.O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021-0030 Jana Thompson, Advisor

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual support group serving transsexuals, transvestites, transgenderists and other gender dysphoric persons in the greater New York metropolitan area. Any interested party may attend a meeting upon written request.

Services: Meetings the 1st Saturday of every month (meeting sites vary; inquire first). Presents programs, information, guest speakers, names of helping professionals, peer counseling, a newsletter, and a warm and friendly atmosphere where transsexual and gender dysphoric persons will feel they are not alone. Dues are $35.00 per year. A subscription to the group's newsletter PASSAGES is $25.00 for 12 issues. Members receive the newsletter without charge. All visitors or prospective members must contact the group prior to attending one of our meetings.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-and post-operative transsexuals, friends, and relatives. Inquiry required.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Rapids Station, NYC, NY 10163, 212-477-6588.

Nature: For those with S/M and B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Service: Frequent events specifically oriented toward the TV. Inquire for times and locations.

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Chi Delta Mu, P.O. Box 93, Mountainville, NY 10953 Hot Line (201) 663-0772

Nature: See "Society for the Second Self".

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either northern New Jersey or southern Westchester County, NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence over five years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT: Girls Night Out P.O. Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235

Nature: An open social and suppor group for TV's, TS's, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings i secure Manhattan location. Educationa programs, advice and counseling. Par take in NYC nightlife. Dressing facilitie available. Meetings last Saturday o month. Memberships $25.00; Meetin contribution: $3.00 for members, $6.0 for non-members. Send S.A.S.E. for ful information package.

Security: Open group, no screen ing.

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRES SION (LIFE): LIFE, Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416

Nature: Social support group fo heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

GENDER JOURNAL: c/o Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181.

Nature: Non-profit newsletter fo M-F TVs.

Services: Includes articles on current events, common sense, observations, beauty tips, and related matters.

TRANSGENDERISTS' INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, 518-436-4513 (Thursdays 7-9 p.m., or leave a message and instructions for calling back.)

Nature: Non-sexual group offering support to crossdressers, transsexuals, mates, wives, and families.

Services: Two monthly parties, weekly support group raps, monthly mates/wives support group, bi-monthly newsletter, shopping guide, key club, and storage.

Security: We have a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel sure of anonymity and our discretion.

TRANSGENDER NETWORK: Transgender Network, P.O. Box 177, Tillson, NY 12486-0177

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational support group for TV's, TS's, and SO's. Clergy and professionals are also welcome.

Services: Meetings 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, social outings, beauty consultants, places to shop, mail order boutiques, guest speakers and referral service.

Security: All inquiries are made through our P.O. Box. Names, addresses and phone numbers of each member are held in strict confidentiality. We expect all who attend to exercise good manners and sense. Anonymity and discretion is requested to ensure privacy to all.

EON (Expressing Our Nature): EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031 Hotline 1-716-251-2316

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of committed couples, one of which is a cross-dresser.

Services: We have social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at the

home of one of our members. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have several shops available which cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group. EON meets the 1st Sat. of each month at 8 p.m. On the 3rd Sat. of each month at 8p.m., we hold a social evening which includes a special program. We also publish the EON newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the editor at the following address and must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue: Diana Askew, P.O. Box 6293, Camillus, NY, 13031.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to become a guest, please contact us through our P.O. box. We welcome all mature and responsible people who enjoy the company of friends who share a common interest. We emphasize good manners, lady-like behavior, support, and security for all.

BUTTERFLY: P.O. Box 552, Vestal, NY 13850 Shannon Michaels, Dir.

Nature: A peer support group for TS's and TS inclined persons and their partners.

Services: Monthly meeting, periodic get-togethers, professional referrals.

Security: Inquire

CROSSROADS OF BUFFALO: Vern, 2316 Delaware Ave. s-102, Buffalo, NY 14216

Nature: Non-profit support group for transsexuals and crossdressers.

Services: Transsexual group meets on 4th Sunday of each month, CD group meets on various Saturday evenings. Annual dues $25.00. Publishes 'Crosscurrents' monthly newsletter, subscription rate $15.00/yr (sample copy $1.50).

Security: Usually new members must talk to group members.

NU PHI CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Nu Phi Chi, P.O. Box 473 Bridge Sta., Niagara Falls, NY 14305-9998 (address not valid - mail returned)

Nature: Social support organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

ROCHESTER CD-NETWORK: CD-Network, P.O. Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692, 716-251-2312 (24-hr. hotline and recorder).

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual support group for CD's, TS's, and their spouses. Over 70 members, mostly from upstate NY.

Services: Monthly meetings and social events in a secure, supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere. Monthly newsletter 'CD News'. Cooperative activities with other crossdresser groups in NY state.

Security: Newsletter sent to all members who have completed membership questionnaire. Invitation to meetings extended after screening interview, or with references from a sister organization.

PENNSYLVANIA

PERSAD CENTER, INC.: See 'Helping Professional listings'

TRANSPITT: Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with Club officer.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404 717-767-4095 (answering machine)

Nature: Non-profit support group for the gender community at large.

Services: Monthly meetings and newsletter.

Security: inquire

3R SUPPORT GROUP (RENAISSANCE RECOVERY REFLECTION): 3R Support Group, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020

Nature: 12 step support group for those in recovery from alcohol and drugs. Our primary purpose is to stay clean and sober, and to help support gender identity and recovery. We are in addition to, not in place of other programs.

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of each month at the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance location.

Security: Inquire

PHILADELPHIA TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP: P.T.S.S.G., P.O. Box 15836, Phila., PA 19103, 215-933-9176 (Joanna Sylvester)

Nature: To educate the community on TS issues and to give support needed in this sometimes confusing period. Dues: $25.00/yr.

Services: Monthly meeting, social events, professional referrals.

Security: No drugs or excess baggage.

RENAISSANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406. (215) 630-1437 (24 hrs).

Nature: Renaissance is a non-profit, non-sexual organization dedicated to the support and education of the transgendered community and the general population. It is an open group that accepts without judgement and helps individuals to grow at their own pace.

Services: For TVs and TSs. Monthly meetings with educational programs, Significant Other Support Group, Transsexual Support Group, TV rap groups, a monthly newsletter, and community activities. Call the Help Line 24 hours a day for information on the latest activities.

For professionals: Speakers Bureau with experienced and accomplished lecturers for college, university, radio, and television appearances anywhere in the US. Renaissance also publishes a series of Background Papers to help professionals and clients to understand transgender behavior.

Security: There is no screening process for prospective members. All member personal information is strictly confidential and available only to the Board of Directors.

READING CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Susan Marshall, Box 14221, Reading, PA 19607

Nature: Non-profit education and support group for the gender community.

Services: Meeting schedule not available. Inquire.

Security: Inquire

DELAWARE

WASHINGTON DC

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON: R. Lewis, Box 50724, Washington, DC 20091-0724.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members of the TV/TS community.

MARYLAND

THE BRIDGE CLUB: c/o Miss Michelle Lynn Gerald, P.O. Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual support group for serious minded TV's and TS's.

Services: A total support group in the greater Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. Monthly meetings (inq. time & location). Rap groups, personal growth workshops, newsletter.

Security: Interview in person. Membership confidential.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

JANUS/DC: c/o H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Transsexual support. Not to be confused with the Society of Janus, a California S/M group with chapters having similar names.

GENDER IDENTITY OUTREACH CENTER USA: c/o Gary, Box 133, Westminster, MD 21157. Gary Fannin, Dir.

Nature: A non-profit nationwide support system for all transgender persons.

Services: A 24-hr hotline with TDD access for the hearing impaired and deaf. Monthly right-to-know workshops on issues pertinent to crossdressers. A monthly publication "The TV's Guide" and a "three for free" condom distribution center for the crossdressing community with an AIDS outreach program specifically designed for crossdressers.

Security: Open to all persons interested in transgender issues and the TV/TS liberation movement. All information is kept strictly confidential and available to the center's director.

MY CHOICE: c/o Shana Roberts, 7 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 301-732-4546

Nature: We are a non-profit support group for TV's and TS's.

Services: Meetings the second Saturday of the month. Call or write for location of meetings. Support and advice are given. We have a registered social worker qualified in TG issues at every meeting. We usually go out socializing after meetings. Shopping, make-up and coming-out help available.

Security: Interview by phone or in person required before attendance of meetings. Phone and address list available only to Shana Roberts and Kathy Lyn, who heads up our TS department.

VIRGINIA

DELTA CHI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (DCEA): DCEA, P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, meetings one a month. Publishes "The Pinnacle" newsletter.

Security: Inquiry needed.

WEST VIRGINIA

TRANS-WV: TRANS-WV, P.O.Box 2322, Huntington, WV, 25724-2322

Nature: A non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, TSs, their spouses, and significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings the third Friday of the month. Costs of accommodations are divided among members in attendance. At our meetings we dress-up, talk, and plan. We plan to establish some form of outreach.

Security: Prospective members must meet with an officer before being told the meeting place. No member shall reveal the true name, address, phone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

NORTH CAROLINA

KAPPA BETA - TRI ESS: Kappa Beta, P.O. Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving the Carolinas and Southern Virginia.

Services: Monthly meetings August to May, usually in Charlotte. Monthly newsletter, The Pink Slip, $15.00 per year. Contributed articles and letters to the editor may be sent to: The Pink Slip, P.O. Box 382, Cary, NC 27512-0382

Security: Interview with Board member. Must be eligible to join (i.e., be a current member of Tri-Ess).

PHOENIX TRANSGENDER SUPPORT: Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS support group. Significant others and friends welcome.

Services: Irregularly scheduled

meetings. Inquire for time and location. 1 on 1 meetings if requested.

Security: Good manners, common sense, protect the security and peace of mind of all.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

MONTGOMERY MEDICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, INC. P.O.Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033, 404-603-9426

Nature: Strictly a support group for F-M and M-F pre- and post-op transsexuals. Moderate fees.

Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual. Publishes 'Insight' newsletter.

Security: Interview required.

ATLANTA EDUCATIONAL GENDER INFORMATION SERVICE (AEGIS): P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 404-939-0244 Ms Dallas Denny, M.A., Dir.

Nature: Non-profit information dissemination service to persons interested in issues of gender.

Services: Referrals to support groups, gender clinics, medical & mental health professionals, ministers, etc. Publishes 'Chrysalis Quarterly'.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321.

Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy; $12.00 per year.

SIGMA EPSILON - GEORGIA CHAPTER: see SIGMA EPSILON, PENSACOLA, FLA

FLORIDA

FANTASIA: Fantasia, c/o GLCS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, FL 32853-3446 contact: Sabrina Marcus

Nature: Social support group for all TV's & TS's.

Services: Group meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m. to discuss common problems, share experiences & network information. Objectives include promoting the TV/TS Community through education & understanding.

Security: Interview required.

SERENITY: Serenity, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022. Hotline: 305-921-8738

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at the Church of the Holy Spirit (MCC), 330 SW 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

MOVING ON, REACHING & EXPERIENCING (M.O.R.E.): M.O.R.E., P.O. Box 100665, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-0665 contact: Josephine Williamson 305-966-2138

Nature: An action-based support group for the experienced male crossdresser. MORE will provide the support, friendship and trust necessary to allow the individual to explore and find their own answers of where in the gender spectrum they want to be.

Services: Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The meeting consist of a one hour topic discussion, a brief business meeting, and a group public activity.

Security: Mailing list is confidential. Telephone contact list is open to all members. Attendance by non-member requires interview.

BLOSSOM'S SAFE HOUSE: Blossom C. Paster, 28417 Trident Court, Wesley Chapel, FL 34249. (813) 973-0987.

Nature: A private setting where CDs can take their wardrobe, makeup, questions, and problems.

Services: Peer counselling, problem solving, dressing, electrology, and makeup advice by a longtime professional member of the Gender Community. There is a nominal fee.

Security: Call or write.

PHI EPSILON MU/ CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS: Box 3261, Winter Park, FL 32790-3261

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month. Monthly newsletter to members and other groups.

Security: Interview required, emphasizing good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

SIGMA EPSILON- TRI ESS: Sigma Epsilon S-129, 8084 N. Davis Hwy. E3, Pensacola, FL 32514

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving Georgia, Alabama, N. Florida, & Tennessee.

Services: Monthly meetings, except June and August, at established Atlanta & Chattanooga locations. Monthly newsletter $15.00 /yr.

Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

THE SOUTHERN BELLES/TAU SIGMA BETA CHAPTER OF TRI ESS c/o Michelle Kaufman, Box 7311, St. Petersburg, FL 33734-7311

Nature: Non-profit social/support group for male heterosexual crossdressers, their wives and girlfriends.

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of month in private homes. Monthly newsletter, with items of interest to the crossdressing community.

ALABAMA

SIGMA EPSILON - ALABAMA CHAPTER: See Sigma Epsilon - Florida

MISSISSIPPI

BETA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS IN MISSISSIPPI: Beta Chi, P.O. Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206-1253 Hotline: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs). Lee Frances, Secretary

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA. Publishes "Premiere" newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

TENNESSEE

SIGMA EPSILON - TENNESSEE: See Sigma Epsilon - Florida

KENTUCKY

OHIO

CRYSTAL CLUB: Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0287 614-777-0648

Nature: An open support group for TV, TS, and others who cross-dress with a full feminine identity. We provide a non-threatening environment for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings the 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with a meeting fee of $15.00. Peer support, newsletter. Buyers guide in preparation. We cooperate with neighboring organizations such as Alpha Omega, Paradise, and Cross-Port. Publishes The Crystal Chronical.

Security: Inquire. Include a brief biography of yourself, and tell them where you heard about us.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Omega, Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings. Publish the Alpha Omega Outreach newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires the approval of a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129.

Nature: Paradise is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support, especially for wives. Paradise has approximately 90 members, with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.

Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and sponsors a meeting every other month with a catered dinner and usually a special event such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, or other event of interest.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible. We place emphasis on manners, common sense, and the security of all. Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings with the concurrence of an officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

CROSS-PORT: Box 12701, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212 1-513-851-6174

Nature: Cross-Port is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends regardless of sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: Cross-Port distributes a monthly newsletter to all members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

INDIANA

IXE: IXE, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Nature: A non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: IXE distributes a monthly newsletter to all members. IXE has a BBS, shared on line with the Adult BBS. Users must be registered with the Adult BBS before access will be given. Upon access type <J> then <I>. Dial 317-784-6975

Security: Mailing and membership lists are confidential. No names, addresses, or phone numbers will be given out, even with the member's permission. Manners and common sense are expected of all members and their guests at all meetings. IXE is a supportive non-judgemental group for all persons honestly dealing with gender conflict. We welcome all to our meetings.

MICHIGAN

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Club address: Crossroads, c/o , Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245. Joanne Janiszewski, President. Business address: Box 1298, Flint, MI 48501. Phone messages: 313-446-0782.

Newsletter Editor: Karyn & Laura I., Box 40715, Redford, MI 48240.

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship, support, and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter) and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. We provide referrals to other organizations nationwide, and to helping professionals in the Great Lakes area. We also investigate agencies, businesses, and organizations, and do considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and emphasizes good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

CROSSROADS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: See Crossroads Chapter, above.

CROSSROADS SPEAKERS BUREAU: Milesa Phar, Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT GROUP: N.G.D.O, P.O. Box 02732, Detroit, MI 48202 (313) 842-5258. Justina Williams, President.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit support/educational organization for the gender dysphoric (transsexual) community, and crossdressers.

Services: We publish The N.G.D.O. Key to Freedom. We offer referrals to compassionate helping professionals and support groups which are separated as to sexual orientation. We also offer a discrimination committee.

Security: The N.G.D.O. protects the privacy of its members. You can trust us. Meetings are held at a safe location.

THETA OMEGA GAMMA - TRI-ESS (Detroit area): Theta Omega Gamma, c/o Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275 (temporary address)

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROSSDRESSERS: NAC, P.O. Box 497, Flint, MI 48501 Grace Bacon, Dir.

Nature: An organization dedicated to education and outreach.

Services: Publishes and distributes the informational pamphlet "An Overview of Crossdressing, Transvestism, and Transsexualism".

I.M.E. OF WESTERN MICHIGAN: Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Nature: Social, support, and educational group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others, regardless of sexual orientation.

Services: Social outlet of the Cross Dresser. Mail forwarding. We have the services of a MSW social worker free of charge to members. Lectures and referrals. Monthly meetings and socials.

Security: All member files are strictly confidential. Prospective members must sign a pledge of confidentiality.

IOWA

CENTRAL IOWA GENDER INSTITUTE: See 'Helping Professional' listings

IOTA ALPHA CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Iowa Artistry, Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Services: Inquire.

WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE TRANSGENDER PROGRAM: See 'Helping Professional' listings

INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL HEALTH: See 'Helping Professional' listings

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA FREEDOM OF GENDER EXPRESSION: MFGE, Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Nature: An open service and peer support group for trans-gender persons, their significant others, and interested persons.

Services: Newsletter, peer support, services listings for members.

Security: Interview required, confidential membership listings used for newsletter and related organizational mailings only.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM: See 'Helping Professional' listings

CITY OF LAKES CROSSGENDER COMMUNITY (CLCC): Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416. (612) 933-5288.

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together; however, personal orientation is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

NORTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

MONTANA

ILLINOIS

CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040. Hot Line: 708-364-9514

Nature: Chicago Chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, a support group for wives and girlfriends, a help line, newsletter, library, speakers bureau, and co-sponsor of "Be All You Want To Be" weekend. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, annual family picnic, Awards Banquet, Christmas Party.

Security: Inquire.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY: The Sunday Society, P.O. Box 47056, Chicago, IL 60647 (312) 252-7024 Sheila L. Sampognaro or Louise L. Raeder (**address & phone number invalid 10/23/90**)

Nature: Non-profit transsexual outreach and support organization.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Sunday of each month 6-8 p.m. Monthly newsletter "Trans-World Bulletin" (subs. $20.00 per year). Computer bulletin board "The Sunday Society US TOO BBS" 7 nights a week from 10:00pm to 12:00am or by request. 2400, 1200, or 300 baud, 8-N-1 color, mono, or no graphics.

Security: Telephone interview required to attend meetings.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 434-5445

Nature: Non-profit social and educational support group for TVs, TSs, their significant others, and supportive friends.

Services: Professional referrals, business and social events several times a month, annual Miss CGS Pageant, picnics, mail forwarding, monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS GENDER ASSOCIATION (CIGA): CIGA, P.O. Box 126, Washington, IL 61571 Contact: JoAnn (309) 444-9918

Nature: CIGA is a non-profit, non-sexual association emphasizing support for the male-to-female and female-to-male TV and TS and their significant others. Significant others are encouraged to participate in our outreach program as well as monthly social events.

Services: Information on specific areas of gender dysphoria is available to members through our library system. Speakers may be provided to the general public on some subjects. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Sunday - no charge. $20 annual dues includes the monthly newsletter.

Security: All members have pledged confidentiality. Interview required.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS GENDER FOUNDATION: St.L.G.F., P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117 Voice mailbox: 314-567-8615, please leave contact information.

Nature: Formerly The St. Louis Gateway Femmes. A social/support group for male to female CD's and TS's, which has recently broadened its membership to welcome female to male CD's and TS's, as well as friends, relatives, and professionals of the cross gender community. St.L.G.F. meets monthly in a private, social atmosphere at a leading hotel to provide support, shared professional knowledge, and confidence building. Activities include grooming and make-up classes, guest speakers, electrolysis information, fashion and talent shows with business meetings.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the Gateway Femmes Gazette, club business cards, and a membership directory

KANSAS

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS: c/o Randi Campbell, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204.

Nature: Support for crossdressers and friends.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER DYSPHORIA SUPPORT: Gender Dysphoria Support, P.O. Box 15561, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215 (913) 371-0658 Anne Ogborn, Facilitator

Nature: Social/support group for people who are in transition, or have changed gender.

Services: Provides peer group support for people in and post transition, and their significant others. Dedicated to providing services to F-M's and M-F's equally. Open to people of all sexual orientations. Meet Friday evenings.

Security: Contact Anne

WICHITA TRANSGENDER ALLIANCE: Wichita Transgender Alliance, P.o. Box 315, Kechi, KS 67067

Nature: Non-sexual peer support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their spouses, and significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings (currently the 3rd Friday of the month) at a local church; a small donation is requested but not required. We provide mutual support, social get-togethers, and referrals to sympathetic helping professionals, electrologists, retailers, etc.

Security: A chat with an officer of the Alliance to ensure that you'd benefit from membership; privacy is assured.

NEBRASKA

RIVER CITY: Box 1305, Belleview, NE 68005.

Nature: Non-profit educational, support, and social group for TVs, TSs, and significant others.

Services: We currently have about 20 members, meet monthly in Omaha, and have a newsletter "The Transformer". We network with other groups and sisters. We work with local helping professionals, perform outreach, and maintain files of educational and resource material including listings of local services.

Security: Inquire.

RHO CHI RHO CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Rho Chi Rho, Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124-0060

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

ARKANSAS

LOUISIANA

TRI DELTA CHI, TRI ESS: Tri Delta Chi, Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300

Nature: New Orleans chapter of the Society for the Second Self serving members in southeast Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwest Florida. We are in the growing stage and are publishing newsletters and holding meetings on a sporadic basis. This is an organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives/S.O.'s, and is primarily a "social" support group.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Mailing list for newsletter is open, for a fee of $5.00 yearly. Attendance at meetings and functions requires screening by Board.

OKLAHOMA

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL (C.D.I.): C.D.I., c/o Ms Gwen Pete, P.O. Box 50192, Tulsa, OK 74104 (918) 582-6643/835-5334

Nature: Social organization and support group welcomes TV's, TS's, and interested parties. No one excluded for sex or sexual preference.

Services: Get-togethers every other Saturday and someone is generally available for telephone contact 7 days a week. We listen, talk, and offer support for all phases of transgenderism.

Security: Confidentiality is assured and expected.

TEXAS

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Delta Omega, P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004-1021 Hotline: Metro 817-261-3253 ("live" Wednesday 7-11 pm, otherwise answering machine)

Nature: Social, for heterosexual TVs and their significant others. Serving the transgender community of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Services: Social activities; publish The Texas Rose newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

GULF COAST TRANSVESTITE CHAPTER: GCTC, P.O. ox 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Nature: Social support group for CDs, TSs, and SOs.

Services: Inquire

Security: Inquire

TAU CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Tau Chi, Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: See 'Helping Professional' listings

BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY: Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252. Hotline: 512-657-2540

Nature: open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support plus local information for transsexual, transvestic, and transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter (Gender Euphoria), business directory, outreach to helping professionals, plus a national outreach program for individuals referred to us.

Services: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations, exercising good manners and good sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSGENDERED SUPPORT (W.A.T.S.): Boulton & Park - W.A.T.S., P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 or, W.A.T.S., c/o Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Nature: A women's support group devoted to the primary goal of exploring women's feelings, concerns, and attitudes about crossdressing. Affiliated with Boulton & Park.

Services: We meet 3:00 pm the 2nd Saturday of each month at the home of Cynthia Phillips. No fee.

Security: Inquire

HEART OF TEXAS TV: HTTV, Box 402, Austin, TX 78767 (512) 892-6454. Edwina Wilson, president.

Nature: A social and support group for CDs, TSs, their families and friends. Emphatically NOT a therapy group or gay dating service.

Services: Meetings the 3rd saturday of every month (dressing not required). Anyone with an interest in crossdressing is welcome to inquire. Publishes a quarterly newsletter "Cross Currents".

Security: Interested persons must complete a questionnaire and be interviewed.

COLORADO

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: See 'Helping Professional' listings

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): Box 11563, 3715 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80211; 303-458-5378

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of crossdressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community. These areas include medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, and other related matters. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau and a 24-hour hotline.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS (Denver): P.O. Box 621681, Littleton, CO 80162

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual support / social group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their families.

Services: Monthly meetings and activities, monthly newsletter addressed to the issues of the cross-dresser and family. Established wives' network. Annual dues $15.00.

Security: Require an interview with chapter officer prior to meeting attendance.

WYOMING

IDAHO

UTAH

ALPHA RHO, SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Provesta, Box 26711, Salt Lake City, UT 84126

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

ARIZONA

A ROSE: A Rose, Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TVs, TSs, their wives, friends, and relatives.

Services: Social activities, meetings, educational programs. Publishes 'A Rose News' monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285-4459

Nature: A support group for heterosexual crossdressers, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings. Publishes 'The Cactus Flower' newsletter.

Security: Before attending, and interview with a chapter officer is required.

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE CROSS-DRESSER'S SUPPORT GROUP: Dana Adriane Todd / Support Group, P.O. Box 26800, Suite 314, Albuquerque, NM 87125 842-9443

Nature: Open, non-aligned and unaffiliated support group. Not a therapy group.

Services: Meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 8:30pm to 10:00pm $2.00 donation requested.

Security: Insured via mutual discretion and respect.

FIESTA (Phi Chapter - Tri Ess): Fiesta, De Vargas Ctr, Suite G-451, Santa Fe, NM 87501-1498

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

NEVADA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN TRANSSEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER: A.T.E.C, 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue, Suite 584, Hollywood, CA 90028 (213) 469-4709 Amanda Silvestri, Director

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transgender and transsexual community.

Services: Confidential and non-judgmental telephone crisis and personal counseling, referrals to support groups in your area, electrologists, medical and psychological help, speakers, and a newsletter.

Security: Open

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: (Los Angeles area.) Alpha Chapter, c/o Virginia Prince , P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036, phone 213-876-6141

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Monthly social meetings; discussions, counselling, and help for heterosexual crossdressers. Wives welcome.

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC): CHIC, Box 562, Duarte, CA 91009. Chic Information Line (213) 420-2580

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, their wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.

Services: We sponsor meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, and other topics of interest. We publish a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings) and sponsor educational programs for the public. Meetings held 2nd Saturday night of each month.

Security: Meetings are closed except to members and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members and (if a home meeting) the hostess. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

LAMBDA ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: P.O. Box 291, Monrovia, CA 91017 Lambda Alpha Hot Line (818) 303-3858, daily, 9:00 to 11:00 pm, leave messages other times. Direct materials for publication, comments, suggestions, letters, mail to above address.

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

THE VALLEY GIRLS: The Valley Girls, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 818-762-7659

Nature: Informal non-profit support group for TVs and other cross-gendered individuals.

Services: Monthly meetings & socials, workshops, rap sessions. Publishes "Cross-Talk".

Security: Names and addresses used only for internal roster and club mailings; access only by club officers. All members are expected to honor all confidences placed in them by other members. Contact President for information about attending meetings.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia, Box 1771, Ontario, CA 91762; 619-244-4481

Nature: TV/TS club offering support, problem solving regardless of your sexual preference or practices.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Social activities and group outings. Novices welcome.

Security: High regard for discretion.

NEUTRAL CORNER: Neutral Corner, Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112

Nature: A self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyer's guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: See 'Helping Professional' listings

IOTA EPSILON ("INLAND EMPIRE"): Iota Epsilon, P.O. Box 3480, Fontana, CA 92334

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: See 'Helping Professional' listings

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: See 'Library' listings

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS (Orange County, CA): Omega Chi, Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92802.

Nature: social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

POWDER PUFFS OF ORANGE COUNTY (PPOC): PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 Hotline: (714) 779-9013 weekdays 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Nature: Open non-sexual social club for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

TRI-CHI: Tri-Chi, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Social and support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Security/Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Tri Ess provides a correspondence directory, a directory of commercial services, a magazine (the Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the US.

Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure that the applicant is heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, c/o Ms. Tauria Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria, CA 93456; 805-922-1309 (9am - 5pm PST Mon - Thurs)

Nature: GCA is a non-profit educational project established to provide services by and for the Gender Community. Open to all. Also a professional medical, psychological and legal services co-op (see 'Professional Health Services'), and utilizes its own computer bulletin board system, MiniHost of San Luis Obispo (see 'Computer Bulletin Boards').

Services: Local support group serving Central California. Information, referrals, support and peer counseling. Gender and sex information; referrals for medical and professional support, personal care, correspondence and peer-linking. International contacts. Peer counselling by telephone and/or appointment. Donations and contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.

Security: Confidential and non-judgmental.

ANDROGYNY: 513 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 245, Santa Monica CA 90401. Please call between 9:00 am and 9:30 pm any day: Shiela (213) 467-8317 or Rachel (213) 856-4867

Nature: A social and support group for those who crossdress. This group is for you if you are a transsexual, transvestite, transgenderist, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, asexual, or, a loved one. We have all had the same feelings of guilt, shame, fear, hiding. We also know the excitement of coming out of the closet, letting your inner feelings free and being dressed accordingly.

Services: Our group provides friendship and understanding in a safe and supportive environment. We have discussions, presentations, demonstrations, social activities. We meet Tuesday nights from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm in Santa Monica. You are welcome to come dressed informally in masculine or feminine attire. Suggested $2.00 donation per meeting.

Security: Please call numbers listed above.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 Hotline: 415-763-3959 (if no answer call Telzey at 415-849-4112)

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TSs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and to have a good time as well as educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with over 400 members.

Services: ETVC publishes the ETVC Newsletter, and provides a full program of educational and social activities and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to these lists, except in the case of judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other members' express permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT: SOS, c/o ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the "significant others" of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings and a newsletter.

Security: See ETVC.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: See 'Helping Professional' listings

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS: No mailing address available.

Nature: A non-judgmental transgender support group.

Services: Meetings every Thursday in the Science of Mind room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Avenue), San Francisco.

FEMALE-TO-MALE: F_2M, 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-626-5824, ask for Lou.

Nature: Support group exclusively for female-to-male crossdressers, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER ALTERNATIVES LEAGUE (GAL): c/o Cynthia Howard, P.O. Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558

Nature: A non-profit national activist organization for transgendered persons and their supporters. A "watchdog" organization for human rights violations and discrimination.

Services: Our goal is to support the gender community as a whole through educational and political activism. Works cooperatively with other minority groups such as the women's liberation movement and the gay community. Publishes 'The New Transgenderist'.

Security: All personal information is kept strictly confidential.

THE PACIFIC CENTER: See 'Helping Professional' listings

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Joan Sheldon, Box 7205, San Jose', CA 75150-7205.

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TVs and their friends have met every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their "male" selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170

Nature: Formerly San Jose' Chapter, GGA. Non-profit, non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at all RGA functions is open to all regardless of gender. We also promote the complete development of RGA members as complete men and women through emotional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestite in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. We publish a newsletter and sponsor social programs, peer support, outreach work, and public education. Visitors are welcome.

FTM FORUM: FTM Forum, P.O. Box 215354, Sacramento, CA 95821

Nature: A newsletter written by and for the female to male TS. Providing a place for fellow FTMs to share their feelings and experiences, and make new friends.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 13852, Sacramento, CA 95838-3582

Nature: JANUS provides a forum on the erotic arts of S/M, dominance/submission (D/S), and bondage and discipline (B/D) in a supported and unloaded atmosphere. This is where people can share practical information and ideas, feelings, health and safety information, etc. JANUS offers education to the general public about the S/M community and to the S/M community about itself. All activities must be safe, sane, and consensual.

Services: Monthly program meetings feature guest speakers and general rap sessions. Member involvement is a vital part of the success of this group.

Security: All membership lists and mailings are kept in strictest confidence.

SACRAMENTO GENDER ASSOCIATION: SGA, P.O. Box 191366, Sacramento, CA 95819-1366 (916) 441-8369 (Message machine w/ calendar of events)

Nature: SGA ia a non-sexual membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of the gender-challenged community, their spouses, significant others, and professionals. Membership is open to all interested persons regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Monthly socials, support groups (TV/TS/SO), newsletter.

Security: All mailing and membership lists are kept confidential. Only certain officers have access.

HAWAII

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: See 'Helping Professional' listings

HAWAII TRANSGENDERED OUTREACH: 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 3114, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Answering Machine 529-5634

Nature: non-profit support and social group for TV's and TS's.

Services: Two meetings a month at a private residence.

Security: Meeting with group leaders necessary prior to first attendance.

OREGON

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE: NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function a month. The days vary in order to enable all of our girls to attend as often as possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

ROSE CITY GENDER CENTER: P.O. Box 12714, Portland, OR 97214 503-292-0391 Nancy P., Pres.

Nature: Non-profit peer support group for anyone who experiences crossdressing or transsexualism.

Services: Two meetings every week, and one Saturday per month. A family support group to assist significant others.

Security: inquire

CAPITOL CITY CHAPTER: Capitol City Chapter, P.O. Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others.

Services: Support rap sessions, social events, assistance available for wig, make-up, clothing and demeanor. Monthly meetings.

Security: Individuals will be screened prior to meeting with group.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604. Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director; Leslie-Shawn Witham, hypnotherapist; 503-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6-11 PM PST)

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of feminism, supporting all those who are or desire to become women.

Services: Direct telephone counseling, contact with others with similar interests, contact with our central organization and other organizations, and personal growth workshops. Also publish Femmes Together and The Equalitarian Feminist. The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8PM at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St., Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network: Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604; Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director.

Nature: A service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

WASHINGTON

EMERALD CITY: Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. Janice Van Cleve, Secretary

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit, non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as private parties and good friendships. An independent organization, but works closely with the Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counselling Service.

Services: At least three functions each month with variety to accommodate most tastes and budgets. Constantly updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counselling Service and be accepted by an Emerald City officer. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: See 'Helping Professional' listings

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE: See 'Helping Professional' listings

ALASKA

THE BERDACHE SOCIETY: P.O. Box 200 324, Anchorage, AK 99520

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social, educational, and referral organization serving the TV/TS community. Supports the concept that gender and sexual identity operate on separate but parallel continuum with unity of the individual and freedom of expression and growth our primary focus. (Sumus Quod Sumas)

Services: Publishes a monthly newsletter "Satin and Lace". Monthly meetings and social functions in a safe and supportive environment. Educational and personal growth programs. Wives and significant others support group. Mental health and medical referrals.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner. Membership is by committee after interview by chairperson or letter of referral. Anyone may receive the newsletter.

CANADA

ENTRE FEMME; QUEBEC TRANSSEXUAL ASSOCIATION INC.: Mme Viviane Belanger, 84, Boul. des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2 418-529-1152

Nature: French speaking transsexual support for both M-F and F-M.

Services: Monthly meetings, medical referrals, psychiatrists, psychologists, hormone therapy, and counselling service for parents of TS's.

Security: Private interview, after therapy group in the hospitals in Quebec City and Montreal.

FACT - QUEBEC: c/o Mrs. Patricia Fisher, Box 293, Cote de Neiges Post Office, 5858 Cote de Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6

Nature: Closely affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

FACTT - OTTAWA: Box 9155, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1G 3T9.

Nature: Support group primarily for transsexuals.

Services: Meetings monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Contact FACTT president through the Ottawa Gayline (613) 238-1717. Arrange a time for a callback.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Annual membership fee ($25.00 cdn) includes monthly meetings and 12-issue sub to Trans News newsletter. Newsletter subscription alone, $15.00. Meetings held at 7:30 PM on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to TVs, TSs, TGs, SOs, helping professionals, and interested, caring members of the general public.

Security: None; inquire for details.

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS): 622 Yonge St, 2nd Fl, Toronto, ON M4Y 1Z8 CANADA (416) 926-0744 (24 hours)

Nature: Non-profit Anglican Houses program specifically designed to address the needs of youth, aged 16-24 years engaged in, or drifting towards, the lifestyle of prostitution.

Services: Drop-in center (M-F 9:30 am - 5:30 pm), rap groups, legal, medical and welfare consultants, street and office work with youth, AIDS program, one-to-one workers, 24-hour crisis line.

NU OMICRON PHI - TRI ESS: Nu Omicron Phi, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario, Canada K1K 8E4

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

THE TRANSIE TIMES: T.T.T., 566 Parliament St, Toronto, ON M4X 1P8 Canada

Nature: A monthly tabloid dedicated to transvestites and their followers.

MONARCH SOCIAL CLUB: M.S.C., Box 579, Agincourt, ON M1S 3C6 CANADA

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social organization serving TV's and TS's, their spouses, and friends.

Services: Private and public functions, a correspondence and peer linking service for members. Publishes the quarterly Monarch magazine. Sponsors the annual Mardi Gras Weekend outing the last weekend in August (Owen Sound).

Security: By member referral or filling in a club questionnaire application form. Inquiries welcome.

PHI SIGMA - TRI ESS: c/o Sara Geddis, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

CORNBURY SOCIETY: Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 CANADA

Nature: Non-sexual support group for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services/Security: Inquire for meeting times and locations, and security requirements.

ENGLAND

BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM, Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England.

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Evening and weekend functions, counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Two bi-monthly magazines: The Beaumont Bulletin, which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, and articles on related matters; also Beaumag, which contains fictional, biographical, and autobiographical stories. Beaumont provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral service to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations worldwide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM W.O.B.S., Box 3084, London 2C1N-3XX England

Nature: A wives, partners and families support group for those who find the transvestite behavior difficult to understand.

Services: A confidential support service.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

THE BM PARTNERS GROUP: BM, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A support group for partners and families of transsexuals.

Services: A confidential support network by which people with similar problems can be put in touch with each

other and given sympathetic help.
Security: Inquire

SEAHORSE SOCIETY: BM Seahorse, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND
Nature: A social organization for transvestites and transsexuals.
Services: Regular newsletter, social events, etc.
Security: Confidentiality assured.

BEAUMONT TRUST: BM Charity, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND
Nature: Registered charity and voluntary body funded by donations.
Services: Assists those directly troubled by gender dysphoria or interested in their care. Provides referrals to appropriate organizations, professional counsellors, self-help groups, etc. Assists the gender dysphoric person and his or her family to come to terms with the problem.
Security: Inquire.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: The TV/TS Group, 2 French Place, Shoreditch, London ENGLAND E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row) Telephone Helpline: 071-729-1466. Hours: 8-10 PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
Nature: Support/social Group for TV's, TS's, families and friends. Registered Charity # 295376; member of the National Council of Voluntary Organizations (NCVO).
Services: Peer support for CD's, TS's, wives and partners. Publishes 'The Glad Rag' and other useful and informational publications. Meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Comfortable lounge, refreshments, social areas, storage lockers, dressing room.
Security: Open meetings, but VERY conscious of the need for individual security. All that is asked is a name to call you by.

PARTNERS' SUPPORT GROUP (TV/TS/ SUPPORT): 081-204-4187 most days between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Nature: Special telephone helpline for WOMEN (wives, mothers, etc.)
Security: See above

THE GENDER DYSPHORIA TRUST (Formerly SHAFT): The Gender Dysphoria Trust, B.M. Box No. 7624, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND
Nature: A self help group for those who consider themselves to be transsexual.
Services: Bi-monthly newsletter, handbook, and other relevant material. Annual subscription. Confidential contact system for members.
Security: Confidentiality assured.

NEW TRANSESSEX: P.O. Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14 1PT; 0268-583761 evenings 7:00 - 10:30 PM.
Nature: TV/TS social club.
Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of every month at the Kavorah Manor. There is a Club newsletter ("Narcissus") and a help line.
Security: Inquire

MERSEYSIDE TV/TS GROUP: 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, England L1 4DE; 051-708-0234. D. S. Cochran, secretary.
Nature: See "Beaumont society".

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY (Isle of Wight): GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelley, Box 2, 1 Bank Buildings, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, P040 9AJ, UK of GB
Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.
Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village" project which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world. Designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity among us", publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. There is a museum and library.

THE NORTHERN CONCORD (Manchester): Jenny Baker, P.O. Box 258, Manchester, M60 1LN ENGLAND
Nature: A non-profit social and support group for transvestites, transsexuals, their wives and significant others. Associated with the Beaumont Society, and the TV/TS Support Group.
Services: Meetings at a Bistro in Manchester city every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 12:00. Publishes a quarterly magazine "Cross Talk".
Security: Inquire

ROSE'S: P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX ENGLAND 0742-342870
Nature: A private house offering comprehensive facilities to help all who love 'dressing' - not only those who cross-dress, but their wives and girlfriends and other ladies who love 'dressing up'.
Services: Regular social evenings and parties, visits and accommodation at other times by arrangement. Quarterly publication 'Repartee'.
Security: Full confidentiality assured.

SCOTLAND

THE SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP: c/o Julie Bradshaw, 53/6 Bread Street, Edinburgh EH3 9AH. Tel. 031 - 228-2231
Nature: Non-profit non-sexual TV/TS Support Group.
Services: Publish The Tartan Skirt, a bi-monthly collection of original articles and gleanings from the media.
Security: Open meetings on the last Saturday of every month in private rooms in Edinburgh. Very conscious of the need for individual security.

IRELAND

BELFAST TV/TS GROUP: Cara, Friend, P.O. Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH IRELAND phone Belfast 322 023 on evening of meeting.
Nature: Social support group for TVs, TSs, friends, mostly tea & chat.
Services: Meetings in Belfast on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:45 - 10:00.
Security: Call first.

FRANCE

TRANS-CCL: Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorities Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 Bis, Rue Clairaut, 75017, Paris-France; Tel. (1)46.27.49.36. (Reverend Douce' speaks English.)
Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities. It is non-political and with a Christian foundation, but is also open to people with other convictions. **Services**: A help-line Mondays from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM at 1-627-4936. We have a large contact section (about 500 entries; probably the largest one in Europe) of contacts for transvestites and transsexuals. We can provide legal, psychological, pastoral, and surgical help, advisors, and literature for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, and other related events. We have a large documentation section on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe. We publish the book, La Question Transsexualle, exploring attitudes and procedures regarding transsexualism in the various European countries. (English translation not yet complete; French language edition currently in print; price 133.5 francs total.)

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France.
Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

SWITZERLAND

KONTAKTFORUM FEMME TRAVESTIE: 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788.
Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

DENMARK

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark. (Do not put F.P.E. on the envelope.)
Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

GERMANY

TRANSIDENTITAS: Transidentitas, Menschen Mit Abweichender Geschlects Identitat, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach GERMANY Phone: 069 8001008
Nature: Support group for transvestites and transsexuals.
Services: Inquire

TV CLUB HAMBURG: Postfach 26 14 26, 2000 Hamburg 26 GERMANY Phone: 040.250.13.13 (Christel Grunwald)
Nature: Inquire
Services: Inquire

MANNER IN FRAUENKLEIDERN: c/o Mannege, Uhlandstr.161, 1000 Berlin 15, Germany, Phone (030) 8822370
Nature: Support group for crossdressers
Services: Regular meetings (inquire) and public discussions

NORWAY

F.P.E. (Northern Europe): FPE-NE, Postboks 1968 Vika, N 0125 Oslo 1 NORWAY
Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Scandinavia with independent governed regions in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.
Services: Monthly meetings, and twice a year weekend functions. Counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Publishes 'Feminform', an informative quarterly publication. A private library for members.
Security: Private interview with qualified member.

SWEDEN

F.P.E. (SWEDEN): FPE-NE, Box 529, 101 30 Stockholm, SWEDEN
Nature: See 'F.P.E. Northern Europe'.
Services: Publishes 'Feminform', the magazine for FPE-NE. Weekend meetings in Stockholm, and throughout Sweden.
Security: Private interview with qualified member.

JAPAN

ELIZABETH CLUB: Tsutsui building 5F 2-8-4, Suada-Cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan.
Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.
Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, and other related items for members. The Club (through Ant Trading Co., listed below) also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. This magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

ANT TRADING COMPANY: Ant Building 2F 5-32-18 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136, Japan
Nature: Publisher of "Queen" Magazine, Japan's premier cross-dresser's reference guide. Single-copy and subscription prices unknown at press time.

AUSTRALIA

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538, Australia..
Nature: The Seahorse Society is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. The Society is a

member in good standing of the Association of Self-Help Organizations and Groups, 39 Darghan Street, Glebe 2037, N.S.W., Australia. Seahorse welcomes new members and overseas visitors, offering support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, and being femme through a monthly newsletter to members. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, and help with related matters.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members are screened in the same way; overseas visitors must either be screened or have accreditation from a similar (Beaumont, Tiffany, etc.) organization.

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND: Box 628, Gympie, Queensland, Australia. Complete details of activities not yet available

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - GLEBE: c/o Bernadette Cross, Box 168, Westgate, N.S.W., 2048.

Nature: See Seahorse - Sydney, above.

Services: Likewise refer to Seahorse - Sydney.

Security: Inquire.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: SSV, c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, Australia. Jan Baxter, President.

Nature: The largest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit, non-sexual social/support organization for crossdressers and their families.

Services: SSV regularly publishes the Seahorse Victoria newsletter. We sponsor social activities, outings, and related events.

Security: Inquire.

CAROUSEL CLUB: c/o Linda Allen, Box 721, Couandilla, South Australia 5033

Nature: A new group dedicated to the welfare of others like ourselves.

Services: Unknown at press time.

Security: Unknown at press time.

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT: EBP, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018, Australia; tele 369-2613.

Nature: A non-profit self-help group for TVs and TSs. Self-funding and self-supporting.

Services: Regular monthly social meetings and education projects throughout the year. A large reading and video sex education library with emphasis on genuine TV- and TS-related issues. Guest speakers. Publish the Nu-Scene newsletter.

Security: Almost anyone over the age of 18 (TV, TS, helping professional, families, friends, and significant others) is welcome. One factor takes precedence over all others: that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

NEW ZEALAND

HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand.

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society.

THE MINORITIES TRUST & TRANSCARE / NEW ZEALAND: c/o The Minorities Trust, Box 2983, Wellington, NZ. Telephone: Wgtn (04) 844-764; (work) 737-800 ext 8642 Miss Leone Jeanne Neil

Nature: A low profile, high powered lobby group promoting the rights of transpeople. A confidential, culturally divergent community support group helping meet the social and emotional needs of Transpeople.

Services: Personal counselling, employment opportunities, professional and medical referrals, periodical publications, and a non-threatening social environment for functions and entertainment.

Security: Call or write and enquire.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: Box 375, Parow, 7500, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Marlene Knoetze, President

Nature: The Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization. All transpeople, whatever their race, politics, religion, colour, sexual orientation or nationality, together with those closely associated with them are welcome.

Services: Publishes Fanfare magazine, actively trying to change attitudes in South Africa. Creating support groups in all major cities. Provides contacts.

Security: New members are "sponsored" by full members. All lists are confidential.

PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

(IFGE does not guarantee the quality of the individuals and services listed.)

PEOPLE SYSTEMS POTENTIAL: Niela Miller, MS ED, LCSW (508) 264-4565

Services: Counseling for crossdressers, gender confused persons, partners, family members. Also, workshops on personal development.

DENNIS PEARNE, ED.D.: Consultations: 9 Alexander Ave, Belmont Ctr, MA 02178 Mailing: Dennis Pearne, ED.D., 133 Grove St. Watertown, MA 02172 Office: (617) 484-0013

Nature: Clinical psychologist

THESEUS COUNSELING SERVICES: Theseus Counseling service, 233 Harvard St., Suite 301, Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 277-4360 Ari Kane, M. Ed., Dir.

Nature: A counseling service that specializes in gender issues.

Services: Counseling for CD's, TV's, couples. Gender clarifications program. Long-term counseling for M-F and F-M pre- and post-op TS's. Weekend programs for couples.

CHESHIRE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES: 104 Cross St., Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-5544 Ken DeVoid, Ed.D.

Nature: Transvestite, transsexual, & gender identity counseling.

Services: Individual consultation and counseling in confidential setting, support group. Weekend and evening appointments available.

THESEUS COUNSELING SERVICE (ME, NH, VT): Theseus Counseling Service, 44 Chapel St., Augusta, ME 04330 207-623-2327 Ari Kane, M. Ed., Dir.

Nature: See 'Theseus Counseling' Brookline, MA.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND: GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester, CT 06040. The Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Director; 203-646-8651.

Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Also provides screening for sex reassignment surgery approval for pre-operative TSs who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care.

METAMORPHOSIS: Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106, 718-728-4615.

Nature: Psychotherapy and counselling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, 914-452-8405. Roger E. Peo PhD, Director.

Nature: A private service providing counselling, research, education, and supporting services.

Services: Individual counselling is provided by Dr. Peo, a Board-certified sexologist. Counselling is primarily for the transvestite/crossdresser and/or his significant other. Counselling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are crossdressers or transsexuals. Referrals are made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars, and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate-level students and other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counselling can be made by phoning or writing Dr. Peo at the above address.

PERSAD CENTER, INC.: 5100 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1616 (412) 441-0857 Randal G. Forrester, James Huggins

Nature: Mental health services for the gender conflicted and their significant others.

Services: Individual therapy, support group, evaluation and treatment for transsexualism including: gender identity team which provides initial and ongoing evaluation, hormonal therapy, and sex-reassignment therapy.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Counselling for transgendered persons.

CENTER FOR GENDER REASSIGNMENT: Deborah M. Gilbert, R.N., Coordinator, 400 W. Brambleton Avenue, Suite 300, Norfolk, VA 23510. (804) 622-9900.

Nature: Intake and evaluation center for persons seeking permanent gender reassignment and SRS.

Services: A carefully prepared gender transition program which meets or exceeds all aspects of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for transsexually inclined persons.

Security: Applicants to this program are subjected to a thorough screening by a highly qualified staff of medical and gender professionals. An 18-month period of successful cross-living and a minimum of six months' hormone therapy is required prior to consideration for surgery.

CENTRAL IOWA GENDER INSTITUTE: C.I.G.I., Susan McIntyre, MSW ACSW, P.O. Box 12006, Des Moines, IA 50412 (515) 277-7754

Nature: C.I.G.I. offers professional and confidential counseling and supportive services to CD's, TS's, AN's, and others with gender related issues. Emphasizes fulfillment of each individual's potential.

Services: Individual and couple counseling, family therapy, educational services, referrals, resource listings/tapes, rap groups, grooming help, makeup tips. Advocacy and other gender related services available as necessary or requested.

Security: Emphasizes confidentiality, and respect.

MILWAUKEE TRANSGENDER PROGRAM: Milwaukee Transgender Program, Pathways Counseling Center, 6815 West Capitol Dr., Suite 310, Milwaukee, WI 53216 414-466-6040 Gretchen M. Fincke, MSSW, Dir.

Nature: A therapy program for M-F and F-M transsexuals.

Services: A complete program of emotional support, evaluation and reassignment hormone therapies and sexual re-assignment surgeries.

INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL HEALTH: 5594 North Hollywood Ave., Suite 204, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217 (414) 332-1880 Charles A. Kiley, MSW, ACSW

Nature: Gender clinic for persons in transition, counseling for compulsive sexual behavior including fetishistic transvestism.

Services: Thorough evaluation, emotional support, hormonal and surgical reassignment services.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA: Eli Coleman, Ph.D., Program in Human Sexuality, 2630 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. (612) 627-4360 (Located in the Research East Building, 2630 University Ave SE.)

Nature: A professionally managed gender program based on the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Standards of Care. Administered by the University's Department of Family Practice and Community Health.

Services: Presently treats about 250 gender dysphoric clients. The program provides intake screening, diagnosis, alternative options and pre-surgery issues counselling, family and children's services, physical health care, and related assistance in a fully professional environment. The Program offers support and psychological services for families and children of gender dysphoric people as well.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: Alice Webb, MSW, CSW-ACP, 1917 Broadway, Suite 2, Galveston, TX 77550

Nature: Psychotherapy (individual & couple for both TS & TV), group meetings (not necessary to be in treatment to attend), referrals for hormones (must be in treatment), electrolysis, speech, legal services and SRS. Strict adherence to Harry Benjamin Standards.

Services: Group meetings are held 1st Saturday of each month, 8:00 pm. No fee. Long distance calls returned collect. No night calls. Primarily for persons self identifying as transsexuals.

Security: Must meet Ms Webb.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, MA, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 80004 (303) 420-9885.

Nature: Practice limited to work with crossdressers, the gender conflicted, and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also a professional Speaker's Forum.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE: Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132; 801-581-7951. Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD.

Services: Details not available at this time.

ROXANNE CHERRY, M.A.: Roxanne Cherry, M.A., 937 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite F, Claremont, CA 91711 (213) 202-1820 (714) 624-6539

Nature: Licensed marriage family child therapist

Services: Individual, couple, group psychotherapy, gender dysphoria, sexual orientation issues.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: The Prince Institute, P.O. Box 2916, Palm Springs, CA 92263 Angela Prince, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A private transgender awareness center offering counselling, education, and support services.

Services: Individual and/or group counselling primarily for the crossdresser/transvestite and/or his significant other. Trans-gender, human sexuality, and personal development classes, seminars, and workshops are also available. Services may be conducted through office visits, by telephone, or correspondence.

Security: Total confidentiality.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: 32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite 203, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 714-240-7020 Wm. G. Heard, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative and treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful programs, which permit extensive screening and interaction of the patient at minimum cost, integrating the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, Ms Tauria Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria, CA 93454 (805) 922-1309...voice (805) 549-0961...data

Nature: Professional medical, psychological, and legal services co-op. A full service gender program.

Services: Crisis intervention, peer counseling, intake, psychological therapy, referrals for hormones, socialization, and referrals for all medical procedures based on the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

GENDER & SELF ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM: Gender & Self Acceptance Program, P.O. Box 4447, San Francisco, CA 94101 (415) 558-8058 Joni E. Israel, Director

Nature: A private personal growth consultation program providing individual, couple, and small group sessions focusing on gender, self & social acceptance, whole-self integration, coming-out, crossdressing, HIV concerns, and ACA/Co-dependency issues.

Services: Short & long-term consultation, small group support and quarterly weekend workshops focusing on gender & acceptance/integration issues. Sliding scale. Serving TS's, TV's, and other minorities. Provide professional consultation & training.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: 191 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-0518

Nature: We are an innovative and non-traditional mental health program. We are a project of Central City Hospitality House.

Services: Training in peer counselling, support group facilitation, job training. We offer peer counselling, TV/TS support groups, A.A., shelter referrals and emergency medical care referrals, and other basic survival needs. We serve the 'Tenderloin' and 'South Of Market' communities of San Francisco.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION: HBIGDA, 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304.

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH: Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; 415-548-8283. **Hot Line: 415-841-6224.** Allyana Guenther, Executive Director.

Nature: A private, non-profit agency funded by the United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minorities of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach to the community at large. Speaker's Bureau, counseling, and group meetings.

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D.: Anne Vitale, Ph.D., D Street Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 456-4452

Nature: Psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues.

Services: In private practice, but associated with other Bay Area gender professionals, and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy, and recommendation for hormonal therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable.

ROBIN J. AUGE, Ph.D: Robin J. Auge, Ph.D, 1036 W. Robinhood Dr., Suite 206, Stockton, CA 95207 (209) 474-3256

Nature: Clinical psychologist treading individuals and couples working on gender issues; consultations, and psychological evaluations.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: Box 3224, Honolulu, HI 96801-3224; 808-926-1000.

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: 1812 East Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-6651 Electronic BB, 24 hrs. (206) 228-7734 (8-1-N --hit return when connection established)

Nature: Ingersoll Gender Center is a non-profit counselling and referral service serving the transsexual community throughout the Northwest, and, through an extensive publications and mail outreach, people all over the US and around the world. It is managed by a professional board and has 4 experienced, licensed therapists with advanced degrees on contract. They work with eight local physicians and two local plastic surgeons. Ingersoll works closely with the Emerald City and Seattle Counseling Service.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentations. Weekly support group for transsexuals, transvestites and significant others, as well as specialized support groups for transsexuals only (weekly), F to M transsexuals only (twice a month), and a group for the Significant Others of transsexuals (twice a month). Special Saturday events are held twice a month and there is a weekly open drop-in clinic, as well as an extensive publications program which provides written materials upon request. Ingersoll has a trained telephone counsellor on Wednesdays, from 4 to 7 pm (Pacific time). They do NOT accept collect calls.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE: 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122; 206-329-8707 noon to 9 pm weekdays Michael Auch, Executive Director

Nature: Seattle Counseling Service is the oldest counseling service for sexual minorities in the U.S. A United Way agency, SCS receives grants from state and local sources to provide counseling and therapy for the full range of problems related to sexual issues.

Services: SCS provides a weekly support group for TVs, TSs, significant others, in-betweens, and 1-don't-knows every Friday from 8 to 10 pm. Facilities for dressing on-site. Also provides crisis line.

GENDERSERVE: Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8. Susan C. Huxford, Director.

Nature: Counselling, education, and research services. Registered in Ontario as a proprietorship. Operating as a non-profit organization serving TVs, TSs, and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexual people, wives, friends, and relatives. Services for a nominal fee to cover expenses. Inquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or phone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/television and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. Betty Steiner, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R8.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ; 609-693-8849. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with the password of FRIENDS (all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future access.

THE ENGLISH PALACE: Box 213, Hazlet, NJ 07730; 908-739-1755 SYS OP

Charles

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service

Services: Large TV/TS Segment, large library and many other subboards.

GENDERLINE:

Nature: BBS (Compuserve Information Service).

Services: Nodes nationwide. Admission by subscription to Compuserve and by permission by System Operator HSX forum B (GO HSX 200 at any prompt). Discrete, support community for both TVs and TSs. Consists of closed forum, conference area, and extensive data library of factual information and archived discussions of topics of concern.

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA 703-765-6290; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Both a public and a private section. The private section is available for subscribers only. Answer the "SYSTEM ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

IXE BBS: Indianapolis, IN 317-784-6975

Services: Users must be registered with the Adult BBS before access will be given. Upon access type <J> then <I>.

TV/TS GENDER FORUM: Grand Rapids, MI: 616-676-2429; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. The Gender Forum is a closed forum accessible exclusively by members of the gender community, and professionals that work with us.

Services: The Gender Forum also has a **'Companion Support Forum'** exclusively for significant others, spouses, and partners.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN; 612-452-2676; 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board: Totally free. A very nice, user-friendly board with some very nice user-written fiction and stories.

CROSS LINK: Denver, CO: 1 (303) 665-3746. 300/1200 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service

Services: When you log on you will see, "You have reached M&D's Travelling Circuits BBS Where YOU Are the Main Attraction!" Name? Last Name? Follow instructions, answer questions. Enter the name "CROSS-LINK".

MINI HOST: San Luis Obispo, CA: (805) 549-0961. 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1 standard modem parameters.

Nature: BBS affiliated with Gender Community Advocates

Services: Accessible 24 hours a day. Currently mostly local user oriented, but will soon be expanding services. (Watch for announcements.)

FEMINET: 408-335-4387 300/1200/2400 baud, 8 bit, no parity, one stop bit. Software: QuickGGS 2.03 (highly modified).

Nature: Electronic bulletin board serving the gender community. Specialty: general resource for all TV's, TS's, and all other persons interested in transgendered lifestyles. Largest BBS devoted to gender issues.

Services: Access: Answer all new-login questions and you will be bogged onto Digicomputronica, a public "front" for Feminet. Enter "P" (for password). Password is "KEY" (without quotes). 24 hours. Financed by contributions.

PUBLICATIONS

TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 899-2212 FAX (617) 899-5703. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The TV/TS Tapestry is I.F.G.E's primary publication. We also publish and market a wide variety of how-to books, presentation transcripts, anthologies of pertinent reprints, directories, and other timely material. Tapestry Publications is designed as the gender community's own publishing house.

GENDER EXPRESSIONS: Electronic Media ARTS, P.O. Box 150, Concord, NH 03302-0150

Nature: Commercial non-sexual TV/TS publication oriented towards the informational needs of the gender dysphoric community.

EN FEMME MAGAZINE: En Femme Magazine, 1977 N. Olden Ave, Suite 205, Trenton, NJ 08618

Nature: Non-sexual magazine dealing with all aspects of the transvestite, transsexual, and female impersonator in a tasteful, dignified manner.

Services: Articles, interviews, stories, artwork, photos, classifieds.

CREATIVE DESIGN SERVICES: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 215-640-9449.

Nature: A commercial concern marketing a line of products and services for the TV/TS Community.

Services: Publish "Art and Illusion: a Guide to Crossdressing" and "LadyLike Magazine", sponsors "Paradise in the Poconos" weekends in May and September.

Security: None.

CHANGING MEN: Editorial Office & Subscriptions, 306 N. Brooks St, Madison, WI 53715

Nature: An international magazine dealing with the issues of gender, sex, and politics.

SCD PUBLISHING: 1401 Melrose Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55426-1843

Nature: TV/TS publishing house.

Services: Publishes TV/TS Talk bimonthly for members and supporters of the TV/TS Community. TV/TS Talk is modeled after the Penthouse Forum, but deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue; $21.00 per year.

CROSS-TALK: P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Nature: A newsletter for the Transgendered community. Sample issue $1.00

THE CROSSDRESSER'S QUARTERLY: John Moran Photo-Graphix (JMPG), P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510-7217

Services: News, events, photographs, fetish fashions, shopping resources, personal & vendor & club profiles. $7.00

THE AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER: Chevalier Publications, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: A magazine for crossdressers designed to replace 'Transvestia'.

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON: Distribution Director: Ms Patricia Fisher, P.O. Box 293 Cote des Neiges P.O. 5858 Cote des Neiges Blvd, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S5

Nature: A newsletter for and about the transsexual inmate.

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San Antonio, Texas 78280
Hotline: (512) 657-2540

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS): SIECUS, 130 W. 42nd St; Suite 2500, New York, New York 10036 (212) 819-9770 FAX (212) 819-9776

Nature: SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and the Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexual issues, including gender expression.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184

Nature: J2CP provides information and referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and the JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, TVism, and TSism. This info package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing, secretarial, and postage services. J2CP also provides referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks and money orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are M-F TS, F-M TS, or TV. If TS, please provide your place of birth.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SFBAGLHS, Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay Area and California titles preserved for research.

TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE: TGA, c/o Dr. Richard Ekins, Ulster University, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT48 7JL, Northern Ireland.

Nature: A non-profit academic research and study facility.

Services: Seeking both group and personal deposits related to every kind of Transgender regardless of sexuality or self designation of gender identity: TV/TS/TG/GT/CD, Gender Bender/Blender, Drag (all kinds), Newspaper cuttings, magazines, group journals, photos, sound and video tapes, records, artifacts of history and living history. Publishes "Archive News" a newsletter and news agency with three purposes: (1) To provide news for transgender groups and publications, (2) To inform the transgender community of the progress of the Archive, and (3) To help the Archive improve its deposits.

Security: One hundred percent, closed deposits accepted as noted by the depositor. Access to research material by direct application to Dr. Ekins, granted subject to his decision. Access to deposits is only granted on permission by the original depositor and Dr. Ekins after a full security consultation.

RESEARCH

TEENAGE CROSSDRESSING RESEARCH PROJECT: Sheila Kirk, c/o P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Nature: Long-term research project being conducted by a physician, a Boarded Specialist in OB-Gyn, with a research background.

Security: Parental approval required. The security of each teenager and his parents is a paramount consideration.

PROJECT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GENDER EDUCATION: Michael Persinger, Dept. of Psych., Wayne State U., Detroit, MI 48282

Nature: A research project attempting to increase scientific knowledge of the CD Community. Special emphasis in the area of individual personality and how it relates to certain attitudes and behaviors. CD is treated as an alternative lifestyle. Working closely with Crossroads of Michigan.

Services: Confidential questionnaires available for all who wish to participate.

Security: Questionnaire strictly confidential, for research purposes only.

I.F.G.E. HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT: N. Cole, P.O. Box 241, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Nature: Historical research project sponsored by the IFGE Educational Resources committee. Researching the history of TV/TS organizations from 1950 to the present. The purposes are to capture the story of individuals and organizations, to create a permanent record, and provide a comprehensive education resource.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT: Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr. Richard F. Docter, PhD, Director, Department of Psychology, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330; 818-885-2828.

Nature: Individual and marital counselling for TVs, TS, and their significant others; research on gender issues.

Services: Counselling and research on gender issues. (Dr. Richard Doctor's new book, Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior is now available from I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. $29.50 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.)

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Personal Listings

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.
3.) To provide the general public with a better under standing of the nature of the people who are members and supporters of the Crossdressing/ Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or IFGE Supporting Member). (Please see the subscription form at the back of the Personal Listings.) As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at no cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.
2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:
(A) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.
(B) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)
(C) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.
(D) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: **TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778**

MASSACHUSETTS (010- 027-)

AUDREY M (E MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
MWM bi-TV, 53, 155, 5'10", nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

Chris R. MA-1354
CHRIS ROBINS (E MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Single TV, Bi-, 44, passes easily. Goes out frequently. Interested in psychological aspects of cross-dressing, androgyny, and feminism. Loves to dance.
Chris Robins (MA-1354)

Valerie V. MA-0273
VALERIE VINCENT (E MA) (#55)
Member: TCNE
5'10", 150, 147, blue eyes, attractive. (Centerfold Transvestian Vol 4 #10). Interested in meeting understanding woman on a social basis for talks, shopping, lunch, fun and friendship... a woman who will help bring Valerie out of the closet. Also interested in corresponding with all who wish to write and exchange pictures.
Occupant, Box 8341, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114

SUSAN A. (SE MA) (#56)
MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140, considered passable. Interests: Collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. Interested in exchanging letters and photos with others similarly inclined.
Susan A. (MA-0064)

Valerie P. MA-0780
VALERIE PAULSEN (E MA) (#55)
Member: TCNE
Awards: FF Ms Cinderella '85
Divorced intersexual. 45,5'11", 145. Enjoy rock and new music, movies, science, SF, night life, dancing, beaches. Never watch TV. Passionate entrepreneurial interest in laser show technology. Love to meet someone to share all this with, and maybe more. I don't date men.
Valerie Paulsen, P.O. Box 259, Watertown, MA 02272-0259 (MA-0780)

Margarita R. MA-1815
MARGARITA AMANDA R. (E MA) (#56)
Member: TCNE
Participant: Coming Together, Be-All, Texas 'T' Party
SWM, 5'11", young looking and thinking, run-off-at-the-mouth conversationalist, yet a good listener. Interested in everything, especially geography, history, science, photography, classical music, camping, hiking, cooking, gardening, canning, dancing, softball, pretty and lacy feminine attire, and PEOPLE. Non-smoker for one year !

Live alone on North Shore of MA. PLEASE WRITE! All will be answered.
Margarita R. (MA-1815)

Holly C. MA-0279

HOLLY CROSS (MA) (#54)
IFGE Board of Directors, IFGE Staff
Member: TCNE
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."
Holly C., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

LILA WALTON (W. MA) (#54)
Naturally inclined this way I do pass well and enjoy being accepted. Interests: Contemporary theater, acting, poetry and poetry readings, folk music, Irish songs and ballads. "I love to be out among people in nice places, when I can do this. I like to talk a lot, and I listen."
L. Walton, 55 Commons Drive #36, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

SUE FANON (W MA) (#56)
SWM TV, 34, 5'10", 160, brown eyes & hair, easy going, clean, understanding, loving & sincere. Interests: Dressing up & being feminine, travel, music, & friendships. "I am a novice TV who enjoys being feminine and would like to enjoy sincere friendships with other TV's and TS's. I would like to correspond or meet a pre- or post-op transsexual."
Sue F. (MA-0983)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) (#57)
SWM TV, 53, 6' 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interests: Photography, treasure hunting, 40's and 50's music, dogs, nature, and being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. Mass., especially Metro-West area."
Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

SHARON McGRATH (MA) (#56)
Member: TCNE
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany outings
WM, 34, 5'6", 140, TV-TS. "I enjoy everything feminine; love going out dressed for shopping and travel. Would like to meet and correspond with others her age with same interests."
Ms. Sharon McGrath (MA-0504)

CHRYSTAL RAYMOND (SE MA) (#57)
Member: Tiffany, IFGE
Participant: Coming Together, Fantasia Fair
Married, 6', 170, 44 year old CD with fashionable tastes, limited budget, and lots of enthusiasm. Interests include crossdressing, crossdressing video photography, sports. Sincere interest in developing a local support group for crossdressers in Cape Cod/SE MA region. Would like to meet on a regular basis for outings, chit-chat, or whatever. So far, I've received inspiration from numerous responses. Have met most personally. Will meet as a group for first time by the time you read this...Join us next time. Write now! (SASE or phone #, please).
Chrystal Raymond (MA-1923)

LISA (MA) (#54)
MWM, 33, 5'8". Lisa is willing to help others become happy too. "I have just started to realize that to be truly happy, I must accept that one is what one is. Would like to meet others at this stage of 'becoming'."
Lisa C. (MA-1956)

Christina S. MA-0649

CHRISTINA SMITH (MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
5'11", 175, brown hair & eyes. Enjoys all feminine things, especially makeup, wigs, and high fashion clothing. "I love the process of transforming myself to look like a woman. Since I rarely go out in public I tend to create a fantasy look... heavy makeup and sexy wigs. Would love to meet others who can teach me more about wig styling and makeup techniques. Will answer all who write with photo.
Christy Smith (MA-0649)

LAUREN D. (MA) (54)
5'10", 185, 30, married, hetero, monogamous CD with supportive wife. Enjoy most sports, camping, crossdressing, and improving my image. My wife and I wish to correspond and possibly meet with other CD couples in the North Shore area for friendship, understanding, and helping. Will answer all.
Lauren D. (MA-2047)

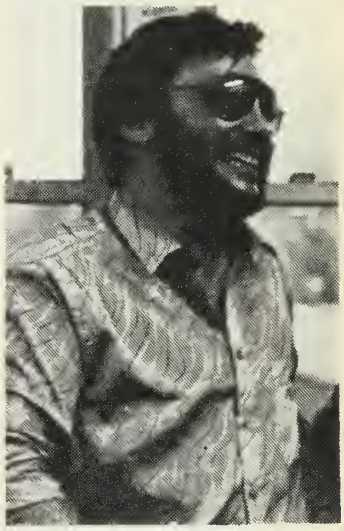
CHARLENE MANN (MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
Friendly, outgoing human service professional (MR/Prader-Willi) and software developer (blind/sight-impaired), living and working full time in my chosen gender role. Compulsively constructive, with a generally accurate "feel" for what works and a good (tho' sometimes warped) sense of humor. Enjoy writing, bicycling, cooking, sewing, and time with friends. Would like to meet or correspond with other TSs (both directions) working in human services, both MH and MR. (I'm a slow but sure respondent.)
Charlene Mann, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

Kathy M. MA-2038

KATHY MASTERS (C MA) (#54)
Late 30's, 70", para-medical (loves to help people). Loves balance between masculine and feminine lifestyle. Honest, secure and has perfect shoulders to cry on. Expert in shopping London TV shops. Corsets, maids costumes, elegant dresses are my passion. Seeks communication, meetings, and help from all.
Kathy M. (MA-2038)

ERIN ANNE O. (E. MA) (#54)
SWM TV, 23, 5'9", 165. Loves alternative music, friends, and all aspects of femininity, especially dressing. Would like to correspond with other TV/TS's. Send photos if possible. Discretion assured & required. Need help dressing.
Erin O. (MA-2094)

DONNA C. (W MA) (#54)
MWM hetero, 5'11", 180, 26. Crossdresser since teenager. I like feeling feminine. never been out, but would like to. Not sure about passing. Not good with makeup. Like to find a club in my area. Will respond ASAP.
D. Coan, P.O. Box 392, Granby, CT 06035



Les N. MA-2124

LES N. (E MA) (#54)
Post-op F-M, 30's. Looking for correspondence to make lasting friendships with other F-M TSs, and with GGs.
Les N., P.O. Box 123, Wakefield, MA 01880

Arlene L. MA-1648

ARLENE SUSAN L. (E MA) (#55)
MWM hetero closet TV, 47, 5'10", 205. I love dressing completely as a woman. Especially love nylons, heels, and lingerie. Am cautiously just venturing into the beautiful world of femininity, after many years in the deep closet. I love my femininity and wish to pursue all aspects of being a woman.
Arlene L. (MA-1648)

LISA COPPER (E MA) (#54)
SWM, 29, 5'10", 22. Like to dress at home. Looking for a woman that can understand and to help me dress and look my best. Also like to meet TV/TS for friends.
Lisa Copper, P.O. Box 415, Wakefield, MA 01880

Diana D. MA-2146

DIANA S. DWYER (W MA) (#54)

Hetero, single TV, 24, 5'11", 180. Blonde hair and brown eyes, passable, but not always happy. I enjoy many sports, especially baseball, and I enjoy writing to what has become a cherished list of super people. I'm a complex individual; however, I'm also sweet, honest, caring, and I try to be a good listener. I'm in and out of the closet, although I'm thrilled not to be alone anymore. I,d love to hear from any sisters, especially those around my age. Any biological women are encouraged to write also. Please write. Diana Dwyer, P.O. Box 4104, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Robyn G. MA-2208

ROBYN GOLDSTEIN (E MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

MWM hetero TV, 42, 5'7", 160. Extremely supportive wife. 3 kids. My wife and I, as a couple, would like to correspond with other couples wrestling with the sexual and emotional implications of CD. I go out once a month to malls and restaurants, sometimes accompanied by my wife.

Robyn Goldstein, P.O. Box 6211, Boston, MA 02114

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

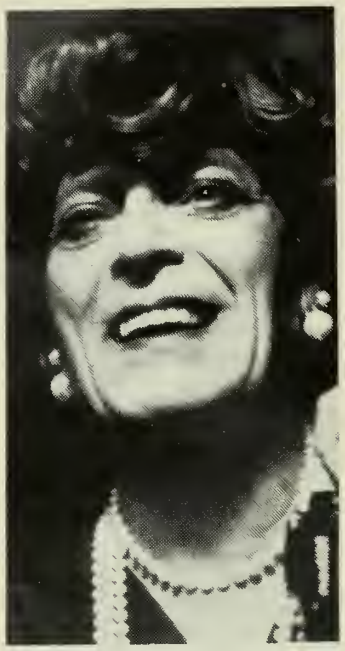
MWM, 39, 5'11", 130. Crossdressing since childhood, transsexual inclinations. Interests: Music (rock to classical), songwriting, cooking, running. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun.

Heather A. (MA-0661)

BOBBIE DAVIES (W MA) (#54)

MWM TV. Want to correspond with other TV's. I love being feminine, love being a woman. Wife accepts me as is. Write to me, I'll answer all. Let's be sisters.

Bobbie D. (MA-2238)



Jennifer E. MA-2249

JENNIFER EDWARDS (SE MA) (#55)

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E

MWM, 60's, crossdresser for 50 years. Loves meeting with other CD's. Seek friends in Cape Cod area. Wife merely tolerant. Jennifer does housework, writes professionally, enjoys photography, sailing. Will reply to all.

Jennifer E. (MA-2249)

DOROTHY T. (E MA) (#55)

WM TV, 50+, intelligent, articulate, discreet. Seeks that special relationship, can't find the closet door at this point, adores pretty lingerie, velvet gowns, and wedding attire. Would love to exchange letters and share fantasies with others.

Dorothy T. (MA-2261)

ELLIE K. (MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

DWM, 5'6", 55, quiet and lives alone. Pleasant personality. Interested in model railroading, country music, and crossdressing. Enjoys meeting people, and long rides & walks. "I'm new to crossdressing, and really can use all the help I can get. Would love to meet and correspond with others of same interests."

Ellie K. (MA-1076)

MICHELLE LANGE (E MA) (#57)

MWM, 40, 6', brown hair and hazel eyes. Interests include current events, sports, chess, household duties, and everything feminine. Intelligent, imaginative, and daring person seeking a friendship with nice, caring, sincere person. "I am an avid collector of TV, domination, and discipline stories, and would like to share them with a similar type person."

Boxholder, Box 1065, Burlington, MA 01803

MARCIA JOHNSON ((E MA) (#55)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing

5'9", 140, 42, shoulder length blonde hair. Attractive in-between would like to hear from other in-betweens who enjoy shopping, dining & dancing & weekend getaways.

Marcia J. (MA-0666)

DIANA E. MARSHALL (W MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

SWM TV, never married, 42, 5'6", 125, size 7/8, loves all things feminine: long nails, heels, perfume, lingerie, makeup, and long hair. Interests: Music and stereo equipment, acrylic and oil painting. "Would like to spend all my time as a girl. Would like to meet new friends and attend Tiffany functions."

Diana M. (MA-0886)

Judy T. MA-0733

JUDITH ANNE THOMPSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Widowed WM CD, 68, 5'9", 175, retired, good listener, hones and intelligent. Passes well. Likes photography, sailing, hiking, gardening, good music, living as "Judy" and helping others of our community. Would like contact and correspondence with CD's in SE MA. area for companionship and like interests.

Judith T. (MA-0733)

PAMELA L. (E MA) (#55)

SWM, 37, 5'11", 145, possibly passable in the dark. Interested in chess, computers, photography, reading and occasional crossdressing.

Pamela L. (MA-2376)

Carolyn N. MA-1829

CAROLYN NELSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: ETVC, Renaissance

Participant: Pocono W/E

TV, 170, tall, but passes well. Likes very much to go out. Married; wife not supportive. Interests: Passing, making lasting friendships with other TV's. New to Mass.

Carolyn N. (MA-1829)

Janice H. MA-254

JANICE H. (E MA) (#55)

Member: TCNE, Tri-Ess, TV Entertainers NY

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Divorced WM, 64, 5'6", 155, blue eyes, brown hair. Goes out as Janice shopping, eating at restaurants, visiting other TV's. Makes friends, but is on the quiet side, write to many other TV's. Will answer all letters. Would like to take hormones and live full time as a woman.

Janice H. (MA-0254)

JOANNA EDLONS (W MA) (#56)

DWM, 57, 5'10", 175. Interests: Fishing, outdoor walks, crossword puzzles, quiet times. "Live alone so I dress at home nearly every day. Go out en femme only at night since I'm not sure of openly passing, and apartment security makes easy in and out difficult. Need CD my age group in Central Mass. to exchange support and friendship. We can help each other.

Joanna E. (MA-1873)

DIANE (E MA) (#56)

Married TV. Learning all I can about life. "I need to communicate with people who understand. Will someone

please help? And show me courage?"
Diane (MA-1776)

Rhonda S. - MA-0317

RHONDA SMITH (E MA) (#56)
Participant: Holiday En Femme, TCNE P-Town Outing
Awards: TCNE Service Award
TV/TS, 5'6", 130 pounds of exotic blue-eyed blonde temptress. Interests: Showbiz, FI night-clubbing, Wagnerian Ring Cycle classical music, lasers, sciences, cooking, camping. "Traveled Honolulu to Hollywood. Done Dallas, tasted the forbidden fruit and it is luscious, or as Mae West said, "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful."
Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

Holly D. MA-2442

HOLLY D. (E MA) (#56)
Married, 41, 6'2", 200, lifelong TV. Avid reader and soon to be published writer of TV fantasies. Would really like to express my femininity more but need encouragement of others who have been there. Eventual goal to meet other TV's and join a TV group. would love to correspond with others willing to share a little bit of themselves.
Holly D. (MA-2442)

EVE B. (E MA) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess
Widower, age 70, retired. Interests: Dressing privately at home with invited guests. "Good friend of Ariadne Kane, and have had Virginia Prince as visitor in my home some years ago. Arthritis has limited me considerably in the past 2 years."
Eve B. (MA-0508)

SYLVIA MARCI D. (W MA) (#56)
Older MWM TV, 5'6", 170. Interested in fetish items for many years; newly into full TV closet activity and would like to share thoughts on this area. Would be happy to swap or share collections of self video on high heels and/or fashion belts. Also have interest in area of forced cross-dressing and bondage.
Sylvia D. (MA-2430)

Shelley A. MA-2463

SHELLEY ANDERSON (W MA) (#56)
Member: TGIC
Participant: 'Be All'
5'10", 36, 150, size 12. Interests: fashion, cooking, baseball (as a spectator) & letting my feminine self blossom - slow but sure. Also enjoy lingerie, soft quiet talk, & relaxing with like minded people (male or female). TV with strong TS desires. Would like to meet TV's, TS's, and understanding females. Very fem on the inside, working on the outside. travel to Albany often and Worcester area. Phone & photo would be appreciated. Let's get together! Out of the closet, and loving every moment!
Shelly Anderson, P.O. Box 4583, Springfield, MA 01101 (MA-2463)

TINA SANDRAH (W MA) (#55)
Member: CT Outreach Society
TG/TS, 5'10", 150, 28, with understanding girlfriend. Blue eyes, size 11/12. Enjoys photography, theater, electronics, music, ham radio. Loves to correspond with others. Always looking for new friends. Girlfriend would also like to correspond with other SO's.
Boxholder, P.O. Box 6127, Holyoke, MA 01040 (MA-2465)

BOBBIE M. (E MA) (#56)
DWM, 5'5", 165, 35. Enjoys sports, soft rock, cooking, fishing, and nature in general. Also enjoys intelligent, caring, and understanding people. "Still very much in the closet. Been CDing since a young age, but just beginning to explore my CD tendencies more fully. I enjoy lingerie and stylish, not garish, soft feminine clothing. Even I'm amazed at how nice my legs look in nylons, heels, and skirt. Looking to meet understanding women and couples to help me.
Bobbie M. (MA-2478)

ROBYN D. (E MA) (#56)
Interests: Sailing, hang gliding, basketball, music. "I just recently have begun to face this special part of who I am. I am interested to hear from both men who cross-dress and women who have been married to, are married to, or dating men who cross-dress. I am particularly interested in women who have dealt with their feelings about their mate dressing. Since I have just lost a two-year relationship when my mate discovered my interest, I need to get a better understanding of what I will face when I meet someone else. How do I tell them?"
Robyn D. (MA-2663)

JENNIFER M. (SE MA) (56)
MWM, 33, 5'10", 185, size 18, brown hair, brown eyes, very outgoing person, cross-dressing since age 5. Interests: Would like to meet or correspond with others. Enjoy dressing, lingerie, nylons, make up and heels. Still in closet, but getting ready, must be discreet.
Jennifer M. (MA-2585)

Rise C. MA-2615

RISE CARMEN (NE MA) (57)
MWM, 60, Bi, closet TV, 6', dark brown hair and eyes. Loves femme clothes and dressing. Would like to correspond with and meet other Bi TV's in the NE MA, southern NH and southern ME areas.
Rise Carmen, P.O. Box 13, Essex, MA 01929 (MA-2615)

DOMINIQUE BROWN (N MA) (57)
Member: TCNE
Participant: 'Coming Together'
MWM, hetero, CD, 38, 5'10", 195, dresses conservatively. Wife trying to cope with CD activities but does not participate. Interests: Define and refine Dominique and to offer and receive support. Want to help form support group in Eastern Canada. Interested in hearing from all, especially girls who "came out" during the 1990 IFGE Boston Convention for possible "Class of 1990 Reunion". All letters will be answered but allow ample time for response.
Dominique Brown (MA-2650)

S.P. GILGUT (N MA) (56)
Member: XX Club, Tiffany
DW M-F TS. Interests: Studying classical organ, photography, reading and model railroading - computers too! Looking to get together with new friends in my area, or exchanging mail/Email via WIZUAX! Stephie @ Samsung.Com.
S.P. Gilcut, 104 Railroad Street, Methuen, MA 01844 (MA-2657)

Karen F. MA-2725

KAREN F. (E MA) (#57)
Member: Tiffany Club of NE
MWM, TV, 40, 6', 200, grey hair and blue eyes, size 20. I am in recreation, but have wide range of interests, including travel, computers, photography, art, music, people. Barely out of the closet, I love to dress in lingerie, lace and petticoats. I need loving help from sisters in the art of passing in public. Dressing makes me feel content, expressive of my inner self, and pretty. I seek correspondence and photos from all sisters for mutual friendship and encouragement. All replies answered ASAP. Please write.
Karen F. (MA-2725)

Diana J. MA-1999

DIANA J. (E MA) (#57)

Cover girl in early 70's for Transvestia. About size 16, have had electrolysis, and have taken estrogens off and on for 20 years. I enjoy being a girl. Interests include golf, canoeing, reading, writing, and living!! I also enjoy the company of my grandson.

Diana J. (MA-1999)

MARIE ALLEN (E MA) (#56)

Member: Now applying to TCNE.

5'10", 200 lbs. and dieting. I think I look much younger than my age (58) in feminine clothes.

Interests: (male): golf, bridge years ago. (female): very much into pure silk - lingerie, and also dresses, skirts and blouses. Bought sewing machine, and am beginning to design and sew silk lingerie for myself.

Marie Allen (MA-2729)

SUZANNE C. (E MA) (#57)

Member: TCNE

DWM, over 50, strong TS tendencies. Interests include computers, cooking, being Suzie as much as possible; would love to be a housewife. I much prefer my feminine self and live at home as a woman, although I must still work as a man. I feel completely comfortable and natural as Suzie and always think and act as a woman. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Suzanne (MA-0295)

DIANE C. (E MA) (#57)

45 year old, happily married heterosexual crossdresser. Ph.D. educated executive. Wife tolerates crossdressing, but not in her presence. Have always dressed in private, but would now like to meet someone to dress with as a prelude to attending a CD convention or weekend. I emulate socialites, my feminine role models, in my interests (fashion and the arts). Avidly seeking correspondence.

Diane C. (MA-2751)

RHODE ISLAND (027- 029-)

Andrea K. RI-1771

ANDREA K. (RI) (#56)

5'10", 155, brown eyes, long brown hair, semi-androgynized. Interests: Sci-fi, investing, metaphysics, dressing up full time like a woman, movies, video. "I am willing to meet other TV/CD/TS's and talk about things like lingerie, high heels, hosiery, makeup, and becoming a full time woman, to be known as a woman, and treated as one."

Andrea K. (RI-1771)

Janine D. RI-0331

JANINE BRIDGET D. (RI) (#56)

5'9", 140, 30's, auburn hair, blue eyes. Enjoys commuters, photography, needle point, gourmet cooking. Interested in meeting individuals who can help me advance in achieving greater understanding of my feminine self.

Jan, P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816 (RI-0331)

Charly O. RI-2157

CHARLY OLSON (RI) (#54)

Member: LIFE

6', 175, 39, size 16, living with understanding girlfriend. Likes fishing, boating, corresponding, photo exchanging, and dressing as much as possible. Need some pointers, and will give what I can. Would like to meet some local TV's or TS's, and discuss our "hobby". Would love to hear from all and will answer promptly.

Charly Olson, P.O. Box 1140, Coventry, RI 02816

GWENDOLYN ALYNNA SPENCER (RI) (#55)

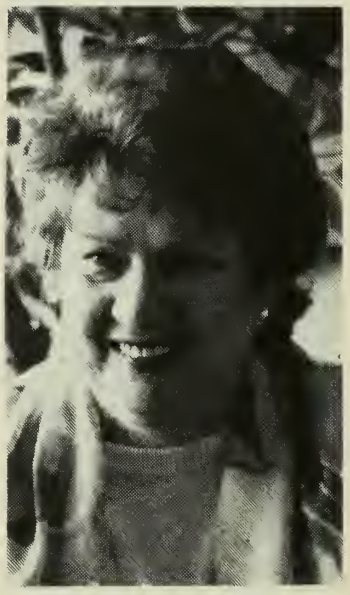
Participant: 'Coming Together'

5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, volunteer at IFGE office. Hobbies include reading, history, sailing, dancing, camping, and martial arts. I like long walks on the seashore and in the woods. Am interested in contacting other Wiccans. Am also starting a support group in RI.

Gwendolyn Spencer, P.O. Box 3453, Newport, RI 02840 (RI-2207)

Gwendolyn S. RI-2207

NEW HAMPSHIRE (030- 038-)



Merissa L. NH-0001

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)

Executive Director I.F.G.E., Editor In Chief TV/TS Tapestry, Director 'Coming Together' Convention

Awards: Dr. Prince 'Lifetime Contribution' award, Tri-Ess 'Community Service' Award, MMRF Gender Worker Award

Single, 48, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years). A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others. Interests: Folk singing, bridge (ACBL silver life master), the wilderness, loving and free thinking people. "I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who are willing to put out some effort on behalf of our community. So, if you are a leader/worker-type person and willing to extend yourself to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

Carolann D. NH-0890

CAROLANN E. DURETTE (NH) (#55)

TS lesbian feminist, 41, and her understanding and involved partner, 35, interested in corresponding with and meeting similar individuals/couples. We will answer letters promptly, and are willing to entertain discreetly.

Carolann E. Durette, 819 2nd St., Suite B308, Manchester, NH 03102

Michelle H. NH-2490

MICHELLE HALL (NH) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: 'Coming Together'

Single CD, 5'9", 140, 40, trim and fit, and passable. Just coming out - with joy! Quiet, sensitive, articulate, comfortable with male self, but excited about expressing my female self. Interested in personal growth. An aerobatics pilot, artist, software engineer, and writer. "I like beauty in my surroundings, and like to build things. Want to experience as truly as I can what it's like to be a woman. Like to meet sincere, articulate, well adjusted genetic women, TS's, and CD's for friendship, support, girl talk, and just plain fun! Please send photo & phone number if you can.

Michelle H. (NH-2490)

CLAIRE DANIELLE (NH) (#55)

DWM, 5'8", 135, brown hair/eyes, size 9. Slowly attempting to live as I feel most comfortable. Seek honest help and support.

Bobby, P.O. Box 478, Wilton, NH 03086

ANDREA (S NH) (#54)

SWM, 25, 5'9", 155. Interests: science, movies, shopping, jogging, bicycling. Recently moved to the Nashua area and would like some friends for mutual support and excursions into the real world. My girlfriend accepts who I am but does not want to go out with me because of possible repercussions. Would also like to hear from couples who could help my girlfriend understand and cope better.

Andrea (NH-1210)

MAINE (038- 047-)

Wendi K. ME-2034

WENDI LYNN KAISER (S ME) (#54)

Member: Transsupport

Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Coming Together'

Single, TS, 5'7", 145. Enjoys cooking, music, shopping, reading. "I enjoy reading spy novels and taking walks with friends. My life has opened up over the last year. When all else fails, go shopping. But most of all I enjoy sharing with others.

Wendi Kaiser, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908 (ME-2034)

KATHERINE M. (ME) (#54)

TS, 43, 160. Am just beginning physical transformation of something that I've been pursuing since I was 6. Interests include hiking, tent camping, cooking, photography, music, writing. Would like to hear from TS's - regardless of background, interests, or SRS. Warning: only coherent, intelligible letters answered.

Katherine M. (ME-2244)

GWYNETH H. (S ME) (54)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

TS, 37, 5'7", single. I enjoy long country walks, late dancing, Cinderella stories, folk music and reading. In the last two years my life has opened up with my transition. Fantasia Fair was a very helpful positive experience for me now and for my future.

Gwyneth H. (ME-1270)

Karen N. ME-0787

KAREN ANN NIELSEN (ME) (#54)

Member: TCNE

Participant: "Coming Together", Tiffany's P-town Outing

MWM hetero CD (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things. Enjoys photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature. "I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."

Karen Ann N. (ME-0787)

Debbie P. ME-2763

DEBBIE PURRINGTON (S ME) (#57)

31, 5'11". Enjoys good conversation, dining out, travel, movies, reading, dressing. Would really like hearing from people who would enjoy having a new friend. Interested in both written correspondence and meeting new people. Willing to help new sisters with makeup or going out for their first night on the town. Promise to answer all who write.

Debbie P. (ME-2763)

VERMONT (050- 059-)

LUCILLE (VT) (#54)

5'10", 185, 75, well dressed. 50 years in the closet during two marriages, widowed twice, look like a 50 year old. Very much into make-up & dressing up, but not passable. Interested in skiing, sailing, and cooking. Living the heart of Vermont, and looking for company.

Lucille (VT-2021)

Helene H. VT-2021

HELENE H. (VT) (#54)

5'10", 185, slim and athletic. I ski and play tennis. Won't say how old I am, but have a very youthful muscular body. I live alone in the country. I've been a TV since I was 12, and didn't understand it. I love heavy make-up. With my face I could not go out, but my house is large and private. I would welcome visitors.

Helene H. (VT-2021)

SHARON K. (VT) (#54)

MWM, 6', 37, slim, brown eyes, understanding spouse. Enjoys crossdressing & being my other self, snow machines, & the outdoors. Lifelong crossdresser, just becoming more open. Would like to hear how others have blended their feminine lives with spouses and life in general.

Sharon K. (VT-2176)

CONNECTICUT (060- 069-)

RENEE CARROLL (CT) (#56)

Member: NWGA, Crossroads

SWM hetero TV, 40+, 6'+. Interests range from American history to the causes of transgenderism. Other pursuits include cooking, travel, outdoors, photography.

Renee C. (CT-0292)

ANDREA G. (CT) (#56)

Married, 5149, 5'11, 170. Interests: Sports, good food, reading. "I would like to develop some friendships in the crossdressing community, and welcome correspondence."

Andrea (CT-0425)

JIM J. (CT) (#54)

5'8", 160, athletic build. Looking to correspond and possibly meet very passable TV/TS age 21-30 in Boston area.

Jim J. (CT-2032)

Michelle K. CT-1490

MICHELLE KATY (CT) (#63)

MWM hetero, 5'10", late 40's, blue eyes, light brown hair, attractive, sincere, quiet. Enjoys swimming, cross-country skiing, music, theater, and travel. Looking for honest, caring, and helpful crossdressers.

Michelle K., Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

Diane M. CT-1812

DIANE MAYNARD (CT) (#57)

Member: Connecticut View

DWM TV, 48, 5'6", 145. Have been crossdressing for 40 yrs. I live by myself and enjoy going to parties dressed. Am looking for correspondence and companionship.

R.G. Maynard, P.O. Box 169, Somersville, CT 06072

LORI (CT) (#54)

Tall, mature retiree, non-smoker. Enjoys all sports, especially golf and swimming. Also enjoys bridge, real estate, economics, and TV fiction. I am hoping to correspond with and meet a female favorably disposed to a shy novice crossdresser for friendship and fun. I'm also looking forward to correspondence with TVs and TSs with similar interests to share experiences.

Lori (CT-1777)

SAL CARBONE (CT) (#54)

Member: ETVC

Retired life-long TV with understanding wife. Would enjoy hearing how others started dressing and what they do now.

Sal Carbone, P.O. Box 8150, Manchester, CT 06040

Nicole S. CT-2228

NICOLE SNOW (CT) (#55)

Member: Tiffany Club, Tri-Ess, CT Outreach Society

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas 'T' Party

Hetero CD, divorced, 6'2", 39. Hobbies include running, hiking, music (especially CW, excluding opera), and reading. Willing to correspond. Especially in need of contact with others who have been able to work out issues related to their crossdressing with their significant other.

Ms Nicole Snow, P.O. Box 432, Unionville, CT 06085-0432

Alice C. CT-2162

ALICE CARD (CT) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 175, 38, size 18, blue eyes, blonde, crossdressing since about 13. Married to understanding wife. I enjoy water skiing, para-sailing & Beach Boy style music. Interested in crossdressing & going for walks & drives late at night. Also interested in photography & meeting other CD's with supportive wives.

A. Card, Box 673, Danbury, CT 06813

DIANE G. (CT) (#55)

Member: CT View

MWM hetero CD. Enjoy meeting people like myself who enjoy being in dresses. Enjoy photo sessions as girls. Travel Eastern States.

Diane G. (CT-2163)

RACHEL F. BOYCE (CT) (#56)

Member: Tiffany Club, CT Outreach Society

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Fantasia Fair

Professional accountant, 43, married, wife knows & supports. Two sons, 22 & 19. Interests: Life, music, dancing, dining out, & most of all shopping dressed. "I love meeting TV/TS's & supportive people. I like educating the public as I often do when out in public. I have become much more aware of my own being in the past 3 years with the friends that I have made through Tapestry.

Ms Rachel F. Boyce, P.O. Box 985, Windsor, CT 06095

Gayle S. CT-2493

GAYLE S. (W CT) (#56)

SM TV, 5'10", 22, attractive. Envies anyone in a short skirt & hose. Interested in becoming a more attractive lady & meeting nice people to share dressing times. Wish to be involved with groups in the near future. Have been out in public often and really enjoy myself. This is my first ad, and I'm looking forward to meeting all who love the feeling of hose, heels, skirts, etc. like I do.

Gayle S. (CT-2493)

RENA V. (CT) (#54)

DWM TV, retired, 50's, size 20. Loves the feminine feeling, nylons & heels. Has video & polaroid cameras. Looking for friends.

Rena (CT-0943)

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) (#55)

MWM hetero closet TV, 5'8", 165, 50's (appears younger), retired, gentle, sincere, on quiet side. Enjoys dressing & being feminine, loves heels, shoes, lingerie, jewelry. Wife not supportive, but aware. Interested in sports, music, reading & travel. Not passable, but would like to be. Would like to correspond with all interested as I am. (Photo exchange preferred.) Especially those in northeast. Possible meeting for friendship, support and sharing common interests.

Darlene S. Ross, 167 Cherry St, Suite 114, Milford, CT 06460

KATIE S. (CT) (#56)

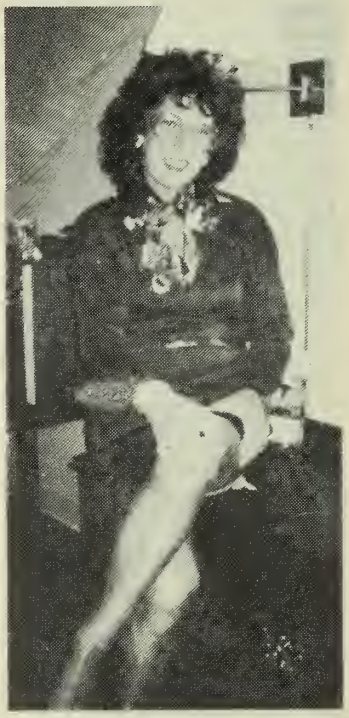
Bi TV/TS, 36, 5'10", 150. Very attractive, friendly, sensual, basically passable; Hormones 1+ years, smoker (but respectful). Would love to meet someone who: Works in a deli, drives a toyota, stays up late, can't drink, plays guitar (or whatever) in off the wall manner, is much much happier being her own woman, and who wouldn't mind sharing happy hearts together over, say... sushi in a dimly lit corner on a saturday night? (You could always order chicken.) P.S., I can travel.

K. Stahl, 33 Fort Point St., E Norwalk, CT 06855

RONI THOMPSON (CT) (#55)

Masculine, muscular professional male. "I would love to wine, dine, and dance with any attractive passable TV/TS who would like a sympathetic, empathetic escort to highlight their femininity."

Ron Thompson, Box 5962 Bayview Sta., Bridgeport, CT 06610 (CT-2477)



Ramona G. CT-1948

RAMONA G. (S CT) (#57)

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Coming Together, Tiffany's P-town Outing.

62, 5'11", 180, MWM Hetero TV. Love meeting or writing to others (CD/TV/TSs), enjoy oil painting, shopping for feminine attire, and of course, dressing en femme; also going to the above outings to be a lady. Wife understands, and is very helpful in my shopping trips, etc. My oldest daughter is understanding, and also helps with my shopping sprees. I enjoy being able to talk to them about feminine subjects.

Ramona G., P.O. Box 171, Montville, CT 06353 (CT-1948)

DAWN H. (CT) (#57)

DWM, 44, 5'9", 150, TS oriented. Enjoy camping, water skiing, 50's and 60's music, cars, and of course, learning to be the woman I want to be. Interested in understanding and getting a handle on my feminine side. Want to hear from people in SE CT and RI, whom I can possibly help, and who can help me. Will answer all serious letters.

Dawn H. (CT-0858)

LORI (N CT) (#56)

6' tall, 190, in my 60's. Healthy, educated, with a sensuous, caring attitude. Would like to share my femininity with TV\TS females and couples. Please write so we can explore our femininity together.

Lori (N CT-2610)

LESLINA SUSAN (N CT) (#54)

SWM CD, 30, hetero, deep TG feelings. 5'11", 160, British, nice, caring, sincere, discreet, outgoing, funloving, supportive. Likes to correspond with and meet other CD/TV/TS's. Would like to meet nice, sincere genetic girls for possible friendship and get-togethers. I enjoy music, health/fitness, photography, video, motor car rallies, broadcasting.

Leslina Susan, BIR, P.O. Box 106, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0106 (CT-2057)

DORA SECRET (N CT) (#56)

Member: C.O.S.

5'10", brown hair and eyes, 150, slim, 25. Interests besides crossdressing include: photography, dancing, 50's - 60's music. I'm interested in meeting TV's or TS's to get together with and talk to, or who can help me improve my femme side and encourage me to make that first step outside. I also wish to escort TV's or TS's out for dinner or for drinks. Please send photo.

Franco, P.O. Box 290375, Wethersfield, CT 06129-0375 (CT-2731)

NEW JERSEY (070- 088-)

ARLETTE (NJ) (#57)

SWM, TV, 5'6", 38, slim, passable. Sincere, mature, and discreet. Feminine and affectionate. I enjoy dating guys, but like going out in public with other girls even more. I also enjoy entertaining at home, and visiting. My personal philosophy is, "Don't just dream about it - do it!" If you're from NJ or nearby, let's get together, and have some fun (phone number, please). Also, I have a spare room in my house - will consider suitable roommate.

Arlette, Box 225, Holmdel, NJ 07733 (NJ-1894)

GINA R. (NJ) (#54)

MWM, hetero, 37, 5'11", 200 (and dieting). Interested in history, classic films, comics, theology, classic rock music. I'm a closet TV just coming out. I'm not passable yet but would like to perfect my feminine self. I would like to correspond with TV's and TS's, especially in the Northern Jersey area. Will answer all.

Gina R. (NJ-2278)

Katya NJ-2215

KATYA (NJ) (#54)

Hi! I am a 38 year-old who loves to explore her femine side. I am 5'10", 150, Bi, and a life-live-long TV. As a busy professional person I don't get to be a girl all the time but when I do I enjoy getting out and meeting people. My wardrobe tends towards the classy tailored things I look best in. I would like to meet people like myself who live close enough to make occasional get-togethers a comfortable and enjoyable possibility. What I would really like would be to trade pictures and letters with others who are interested in sharing a little more than just fantasies.

Katya, P.O. Box 20, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

Dee M. NJ-2270

DEE MATUSAWIC (NJ) (#54)

Bi TV, dominant, loves tight corsetry and rubber/leather ware. Desires to meet like minded sisters and women to share good times. Am specifically looking for a select few personal maids. Photo mandatory, and phone desirable.

D. Matusawic, P.O. Box 341, Richland, NJ 08350

Julie C. NJ-1460

JULIE C. (NJ) (354)

MWM, 5'10", 30's, brown hair & eyes, thin. Love dressing pretty, especially in high heels. Enjoy music and meeting others like me. I also enjoy travel (especially P-town). I would love to go out more, all I need is a little encouragement. My wife helps as much as she can, but a friend would help a lot more.

Julie C. (NJ-1460)

Robyn D. NJ-1337

ROBYN ANN D. (S NJ) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Paradise in the Poconos

SWM, TV, 32, author, artist, photographer, film buff, tennis nut, engaged to the most wonderful, understanding and beautiful woman in the world! Editor-in-chief of En Femme magazine, publisher of En Femme Fiction magazine. Have appeared on local and national television on behalf of the community.

Robyn Ann, c/o En Femme, 1977 N. Olden Ave, Suite 205, Trenton, NJ 08618

DONNA ROESKE (NJ) (#54)

I am a M-F TS, 53, 5'7", 145, sandy hair, shoulder length. I am married and plan to stay so. I like hiking, sailing, classical music, and gardening. I am the parent of two boys, both adopted, and both are very precious to me.

Donna R. (NJ-2277)

Terry M. NJ-2400

TERRY M. (S NJ) (#55)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Poconos Weekend, Paradise in the Poconos

Single male CD, 37, 5'8", brown eyes & hair. Very grateful to be out of the closet. I have enjoyed much growth and self-acceptance through interaction and sharing with other gender people.

Terry M. (NJ-2400)

G.J.P. (NJ) (#54)

SWM, 37, 6'4", professional, graduate level education. Interested in reading (history, politics), watching old movies, stamp collecting. Although probably too tall to pass, I have always been drawn to the TV lifestyle, but cannot fulfill my dreams in current situation. Have some parts of a wardrobe but no real chance to dress up. I am shy and quiet, and a little bit self-conscious. Would appreciate correspondence with other TV's on how to be more feminine, and advice on makeup, hairstyles, etc.

G.J.P. (NJ-2293)

JANE PEABODY (S NJ) (#56)

Member: Outreach Institute, Renaissance

Participant: DREAM, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

Tall, reddish blonde. Enjoys high heels, classical music, theater, and travel. Likes to participate in real-world activities.

Jane P. (NJ-0242)

SUZIE M. (N NJ) (#56)

MWM, late 40's, bi-TV, 6'1", loves lingerie, nylons, and high heels. Have been dressing all my life. Would like to meet other bi sisters to share fantasies.

Suzie M. (NJ-0686)

Sharon D. NJ-2342

SHARON DAVIDSON (N NJ) (#55)

Member: Philadelphia TS Support

TS, 44, married to very supportive wife. Lives 75% of the time as woman. Want to meet others like myself. Quiet, sincere, caring. Wants to become more active in TS community.

Sharon D. (NJ-2342)

JANE T. (S NJ) (#55)

MWM TV, 6', 210, 48, with supportive wife. "I'm a TV with a full beard for 30 years - can't leave closet, but love corsets, girdles, hose, heels, and latex. Dress at home. No sense going out with a beard, but if you know a way, let me know.

Jane T. (NJ-2339)

Stacy A. NJ-2468

STACY AMBER (N NJ) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess (Chi Delta Mu)

Single TV, 35, 6', blonde, blue-green eyes. I enjoy reading, dancing, music, old movies, nature, Tai Chi Chuan, I Ching, Avalon Hill Games, Zen Buddhism, cats, plants, stars, walking through a moonlit forest, hanging out in the ocean surf, and sharing and playing with my TV friends. Will respond to a good letter, but sometimes it will take a while to get back to you. "All the nightmares came today, and it looks as though they're here to stay".

Stacy Amber (NJ-2468)

DEE J. (N NJ) (#54)

SWM TV, 46, 6', 152, college education, shy, just out of the closet. Dressing for past 21 years. Would like to meet others interested in and attracted to

TV's. Enjoy TV clubs, mini skirts (have been told I have nice legs). Could use help from others with makeup. Letters with photo receive prompt response.
Dee J. (NJ-2337)

PRISCILLA K. (NJ) (#56)
34, married to "non-enthusiastic" wife, healthy, sensitive, caring, articulate, imaginative, discrete. Interests: Submissive crossdressing, female supremacy, maid's uniforms, aprons, petticoats, and pinafores. Interested in corresponding with others sharing the submissive TV passions for exchange of ideas, consciousness raising, and relating of experiences both real and imagined. Still deeply "closeted" and somewhat shy, but willing to peek out for correspondence only.
Priscilla K. (NJ-1706)

Katherine H. NJ-2073

KATHERINE H. (N NJ) (#57)
Member: TGIC
Participant: Fantasia Fair, IFGE Convention, 'Be All', 'Coming Out', Spring Fling.
6', brown hair, pre-op TS. Loves music, humor, corresponding, and helping others. Do stand-up comedy, Broadway poetry, and all things feminine. Rap group moderator. Love to travel (by car), love housework, gardening, talking, and answering letters.
Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

CHRISTINE M. (N NJ) (#56)
SWM, 39, 5'11", 140, life long CD, sensitive, gentle, caring. Interests: High end audio, sports, and everything feminine. "I cherish my female side and the tapestry has greatly helped me to understand and love the "girl within." Will correspond to any sister to make new friends. Still in the closet, need to be pushed to a meeting.
Christine M. (NJ-1933)

STEPHANIE D. (S NJ) (#55)
SWM TS, 35, 5'5", 150. Enjoys cooking, sewing, antiques, gardening. I love to dress as woman, and would like to correspond and meet other TV's & TS's for friendship and support. I am a warm and caring person who understands the loneliness of not having anyone to share the feminine side of ourselves. I will keep your secret.
Stephanie D. (NJ-2527)

Gloria R. NJ-2699

GLORIA R. (NJ) (#56)
Member: NYGA
Single male, 5'7", 145, mid-40's. Lifelong crossdresser interested in corresponding/meeting all interested parties. Sincerity a must. You photo gets mine.
G. Reah, P.O. Box 6904, Piscataway, NJ 08855 (NJ-2699)

Elena L. NJ-1200

ELENA LEWIS (NJ) (#57)
Member: Girls Night Out
Single TV, 30's, trim and petite. Intelligent, sensitive, and sincere. The weekends are my special time to enjoy life as a woman. Active supporter of NYC area transgender community. Demure yet affectionate, seeking to explore friendship/relationship with mature man, based on shared values, dignity, and respect. Also invite other sisters with comparable lifestyle to write. Perhaps we could double date.
Elena Lewis, P.O. Box 4805, Clifton, NJ 07015

LISA MARTIN (N NJ) (#57)
I am a MWM, 6'1", 175 lb. CD who loves feminine things, especially high heels. Just recently, I've fully accepted my feminine side, and freed myself of guilty feelings. I'm anxious to develop some friendships for correspondence and occasional get-togethers, through which we can explore our feminine natures and dressing techniques. Some of my other interests include running, tennis, dancing, and the beach.
Lisa M. (NJ-1853)

SUE (N NJ) (#55)
5'7", 150, well-proportioned and cute. Well educated, good writer. Since dressing up in my younger sister's clothing as a child, the attraction of dressing in teen and pre-teen clothing has only gotten stronger. I also love the idea of dressing in women's clothing. All members who have such interests and would like to correspond, please write. I will answer all promptly.
Sue (NJ-1774)

NEW YORK (090- 149-)

Joan F. NY-1220

JOAN FASHIONS (N NY) (#54)
Member: Tri Ess, NGA
MWM TV/TG, 54, retired. Live mostly as Joan. Travel NYC/NJ area for shopping, socials, etc. Family grown and understanding. Letters with photo will receive prompt response.
Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

MICHELLE P. (N NY) (#55)
Member: TGIC
Upstate NY TV. Adores everything feminine. Seeks TV's & women for friendship and possible meetings. Will answer all sincere letters.
Michele P. (NY-1534)

Joanna P. NY-0973

JOANNA PAULINE (W NY) (#56)
Member: Tri Ess, EON, CD Network
Married TV, 42, two daughters, wife knows and is tolerant, but finds acceptance difficult. Older daughter also knows. Interests: Photography, cinema, home video, gardening, swimming. Membership chairperson for Rochester CD-Network. Interested in hearing from people interested in joining our support group, and finding new friends.
Joanna Pauline, P.O. Box 15731

Vickie S. NY-1035

VICKIE STONE (SE NY) (#56)
Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu
Hetero TV, 6', 185, attorney. Hobbies include writing (has published in Femme Mirror & 'Femanine', editor 'Lifelines'). Former pro musician. Still enjoys songwriting. writing (fiction & non-fiction), music (former pro musician - guitar & bass). Still enjoys song-writing. Home recordist, avid photographer. Has darkroom. Avid skier. Seeks fellow TV ski bums to ski NY, MA & VT. Enjoys NYC night clubs. Tries to respond to all letters sooner or later. Enjoys helping novices.
Vickie Stone, Box 31, Hempstead, NY 11551

FRANCINE LORRAINE C. (W NY) (#55)
SWM, 40's, 5'10", 170, dress conservatively. Likes hiking, cooking, history, outdoors, dressing up & being feminine. Would like to correspond with others like myself. Need to accept and understand being a TV. Would welcome all TV's passing through area. Can travel and visit others.
Francine Lorraine C. (NY-1584)

Gretchen L. NY-1359

GRETCHEN L. (W NY) (#54)
Participant: Fantasia Fair
6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. Would like to meet other TVs in the Buffalo NY area. Would like to have dinner out.
Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720

Joanne E. NY-1224

JOANNE E. (SE NY) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 56, 6', 250. Interests: "I love to dress and have done so every day for 25 years. Have very supportive wife who would love to hear from other wives or SO's Promise to answer all with photo."
Joanne E., P.O. Box 310, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

RENEE' SLOCUM (W NY) (#57)
Member: CD-Network
5'11", 160, hetero SWM. College educated, shy, but good sense of humor. Early 30's. Interests include photography, ballet, antiques, music (rock 'n roll oldies). Would like to hear from, and possibly meet with other CD's in the Geneva and Finger Lakes area. Maybe we can form a small support group. Been a CD for 20 years.
Renee' Slocum, Box 977, Geneva, NY 14456 (NY-0651)

Angela S. NY-0719

ANGELA S. (W NY) (#56)
Member: EON, TVA
Participant: Tiffany Couples' Weekend, Joyce Dewhurst Pocono Outings, Coming Together
Awards: EON Pioneer Award
5'10", 190, brown hair, blue eyes, 40's. Baby boomer in bloomers; just another big-boned beauty. Interests: Motorcycling, fly-fishing, boating, radio controlled planes, travel, Native American music & traditions, jazz. "I enjoy being a complete person and helping others to feel comfortable about crossdressing. I am always magnetically attracted to having a good time. Sometimes passable, other times - who cares! Very active in W NY, founder of EON. Personal freedom & character growth are very important. We must be all we can be and help others to do the same.
Angela S. (NY-0719)

Susan H. NY-1677

SUSAN HOWARD (N NY) (#55)
Member: TGIC
Early 50's, 5'8", slender, bisexual. Love philosophy, poetry, reading, gardening. Published poet and writer. Would like friends in the Bennington VT, low Adirondack area of NY. Will answer correspondence. I enjoy my feminine side, dress up every chance I get, but can't come out.
Susan Howard, P.O. Box 92, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Connie T. NY-0434

CONNIE TAYLOR (W NY) (#56)
MWM elderly hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with supportive wife. Likes clean cut clothes and tall heels. Loves to correspond and all letters promptly answered.
Connie Taylor, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702

Winnie B. NY-0228

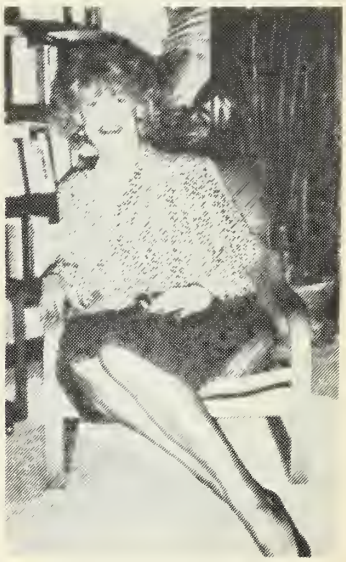
WINNIE BRANT (N NY) (#55)
Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, TGIC
Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair
Hetero TV, 50+, 6'2", a lady. Has many interests, scientific and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.
Mr W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301

JULIE ANN C. (N NY) (#55)
Participant: FF '78, '88 & '89
Awards: "Best Girlfriend Award" (from my wife)
hetero TV, 50's, 5'9". I live out in the country in Northern NY, and dress often. I also enjoy my Fantasia Fair trips with my adopted sister, Winnie B.
Julie Ann C. (NY-1695)

MICHELLE M. (SE NY) (#56)
Member: L.I.F.E.
Events: Fantasia Fair '87, '88; Tiffany Spring Outing '88, IFGE Coming Together Convention '88
I love to go out in public and pass easily. My appearance is very good, but need work on mannerisms and especially voice. Working on developing one integrated, androgenous personality rather than two extremes. Love music (popular, jazz) skiing (advanced intermediate) and all things feminine.
Michelle M., 114-41 Queens Blvd., #272, Forest Hills, NY 11375

LYNDA (NY) (#56)
MWM TV, 37. Interested in writing to and meeting with others who are interested in crossdressing. Looking for someone who could help me with same. Lynda (NY-0775)

STEPHANIE LYNN (N NY) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess
5'9, 38, 180, dk. blond, size 16. Interested in talking to a post-op TS and meeting to exchange thoughts. "I enjoy being a girl 95% of the time, although I can't. Stephanie is a fun-loving girl with a great sense of humor. She has strong TS desires since early childhood. She would enjoy being escorted out by a sensitive male. She is a conservative dresser, heels, hose, and pretty dresses. Will answer all.
Stephanie Lynn (NY-1744)



Charliss D. NY-1856

CHARLISS D. (W NY) (#56)
Member: Tiffany, EON
Fairly new, have attended events in Boston, Albany, Rochester. Single, educated, professional, world traveler. Likes adventure and meeting like-minded people. Very strong feminine nature. Ten year 12-step experience. Interested in fourth dimension, sharing and intimacy. Enjoy getting together, shopping, dining out. Attracted to and respect expressions of individuality. A sharer willing to receive as well as give.
Charliss D. (NY-1856)

Bonnie H. NY-1186

BONNIE HOWARD (W NY) (#57)

Member: EON

Participant: TWSG P-town Weekend

42, 5'6", size 12, 135. Interests include sailing, golf, cross-country skiing, music. I am enjoying married life, and the pursuit of a successful career. Bonnie is an important part of both! I try every day to prove that middle age is the best of times. If you would like to share life's experiences with a slightly conservative, but stylish business woman - drop a line.

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

Trenna Marie M. NY-0623

TRENNA MARIE M. (W NY) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Wine Country Weekend, CDM Pocono WE, Muriel Olive WE

65, retired, 5'8", 185, hetero, married. Have been dressing 55 years, have supportive wife. Love to go out dressed, but can't in my area. Like to write and exchange photos.

Trenna Marie (NY-0623)

BETTY PRINCE (NYC NY) (#54)

WS pre-op TS, 5'7", light brown hair, green eyes. Can pass as a woman without problem, likes all sports, music, and sci-fi books and movies.

Betty P. (NY-1304)

Delores M. NY-0808

DELORES MERHIGE (SE NY) (#57)

Member: Chi Delta Mu (past president), LIFE, Serenity, IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E (1st runner-up, Miss Poconos), 'Coming Together', IFGE Convention.

Married, middle-aged, 5'10", medium build, engineer, life long TV. Wife quite supportive. Interests: Fashion, clothes, makeup, socializing, music, art, photography, sailing, tennis, reading. I love the fun part of the scene, and derive a lot of pleasure from it. Will write as often as I can

D. Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 (NY-0808)

Lou B. NY-1908

LOU BETCHER (LI NY) (#56)

Bi WM, 46, 6'1", 168, brown/gray hair. Am interested in meeting TV/TS for get-togethers. Would appreciate a photo and how to contact. Photo will be returned upon request. I'm a little shy and submissive. All letters will be answered.

Lou Betcher, Box 501, Brentwood, NY 11717 (NY-1908)

KATE MORRISEN (SE NY) (#54)

Member: LIFE

MWM hetero TV, 6'1", 43, nonsmoker. My wife knows, but chooses not to be involved. I would very much like to meet a special woman, a TV or TS who will accept me as Kate and become my friend. We could enjoy a glass of wine over lunch, & go shopping. I can offer advice on getting proper fitting corsets and brassieres (was trained by a licensed corsetierre in Paris). I think you'll find me interesting, happy, an intelligent person who enjoys life. Please write soon so we can share as sisters our hopes, dreams, and fantasies. You'll be glad you did!

Kate Morrisen, P.O. Box 20, Jericho, NY 11753

Vicki F. NY-2213

VICKI RENEE FOLTS (W NY) (#57)

Member: TGIC, Crossroads of Buffalo

M-F TS who has been living & working full time for 1 1/2 years. I am 5'11", 32, green eyes & sandy blonde hair. Interested in corresponding both by phone & mail to other TV's & TS's. Play many instruments & write music which I record. Love shopping & fine dining & travel. Interested in helping others in any way I can.

Vicki F. (NY-2155)

Victoria N. NY-1960

VICTORIA LOUISE NORRELL (SE NY) (#55)

I like who I am, what I am, and where I am, for I am Victoria and I love life. With care and planning I will effect my destiny, helping those that I can along the way to be positive wholesome people. I dress, shop, dine, travel, go to movies, concerts, and enjoy a myriad of feminine things. Would like to learn ballroom dancing. I enjoy "tinplate" railroading, and am very much in love with a beautiful woman named Carla. I live by my creed which is, "I can never be a woman but I will never be anything less than a lady."

Will try to answer all, to all I wish PEACE.. of mind.. of heart.. of spirit.

Victoria N. (NY-1960)

Rachel C. NY-2123

RACHEL C. (N NY) (#54)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, 'Coming Together'

Fun loving transgenderist contemplating transsexuality. Love to dance, shop, travel. Intelligent, sensitive and sensual. Part-time musician with full-time dreams. Have recorded songs with transgenderist lyrics - available on cassette. Would love to correspond with interested others.

Rachel C., Box 12293, Albany, NY 12212

Marjorie T. NY-2266

MARJORIE THOMAS (NYC) (#55)

SWM, 34, 5'7", 130, very passable when made-up correctly, size 8. I'm quite content to have both male and female personas. I have typical interests for both genders. When I'm dressed, I'm ultra-feminine. Still basically in the closet, I would like to meet others of my age in the NE section of the country. I am a private person and prefer discretion.

Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

LILIAN FRANK (NYC NY) (#55)

Long-time CD, 45. Would like to meet or correspond with any TV's or TS's (M-F or F-M) who feel there might be a "spiritual dimension" to their condition.

Lilian F. (NY-2230)

Joanne S. NY-2375

JOANNE R. SILVERMAN (SE NY) (#56)

Member: CT Outreach Society

Married (she doesn't know), 50, 5'11", 190, conservative dresser. Education: Advanced degrees. Shuns macho image. Caring, passable. Interests: Photography, movies, theater, reading, travel. Thoroughly enjoys corresponding with sisters who have similar interests. "I would love to meet as many new friends in the NYC/Westchester area as possible to share our common femininity. I will respond to all who write, and if a phone number is included, absolute discretion is promised.

Ms Joanne R. Silverman, P.O. Box 374, Millwood, NY 10546

TIFFANY S. (SE NY) (#55)

6', blue eyes, brown hair. No drugs, no alcohol, am not gay or bi-, learning more about my female self. I am 29, and have been crossdressing as long as I can remember. I would like to meet others who could help me dress up. I am shy about my crossdressing, but have finally found the courage to accept myself for who I am. I'm just coming out for the first time.

Tiffany S. (NY-2246)

VINCENT M. (SE NY) (#54)

Single male, 6', 180, brown on brown, handsome, Italian heritage. Fine arts photographer. Looking to meet and communicate with pre-or post-operative transsexuals. Want to have fun and feel free to think and act the way we please. Let's just have fun!

Vincent M. (NY-2269)

NANCY WILLIAMS (NYC) (#55)

Attractive wasp, gay TV, 42, former college prof., likes ballet & opera. Seeks male or TV for loving permanent relationship.

Bill Williams, P.O. Box 283, NY, NY 10021

BILLIE JAY WEST (APO NY) (#55)

Member: Renaissance

MWM, separated TV, 47, 6'2", 200, size 20, children grown and gone. Live alone, smoker, social drinker. Ready to come out but don't know how. Love being a girl, wearing lingerie and all things feminine. Dress completely at home as often as possible. Enjoy reading and writing erotic D/S fantasies, and would love to correspond with others, straight or bi, who enjoy the same. If you are coming to Europe in the next year (90-91), meeting possible. Will answer all. Photo appreciated. Have polaroid can travel.

Billie W. (APO-2374)

JUDITH B. (N NY) (#55)

White bi TV, 335, 48, health & hygiene conscious. Seeks right male, female, M/F couple, or TV for romantic times. Like to be treated as a total woman that I could be. No drugs. Please sent Detailed letter with picture & phone #.

Judith B. (NY-1678)

SANDY W. (W NY) (#55)

Shy. Interests: Auto repair, running, skiing, bike riding, tennis.

Sandy W. (NY-2371)

Veronica M. NY-2482

VERONICA MARTIN (N NY) (#55)

Member: TGIC

SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 160, slowly coming out of closet. Enjoy dressing up in very feminine party dresses and full skirts with petticoats and crinolines. Also enjoy music and most sports. Would love to meet and/or correspond with real females with feelings and understanding to enhance my femininity and masculinity. I have my own house all to myself.

Veronica Martin (NY-2482)

JULIE THOMPSON (W NY) (#55)

SWM (widowed), 47, 5'9". Just starting out of the closet, shy, still nervous and in need of guidance. Would like to meet TV/TS and understanding women for discreet evenings and good times. I golf (I hit the ball a lot), dabble in photography, and am an avid reader (spy novels). Love crossdressing almost as much as flying. I have some hours toward my license, but expanding my wardrobe is top priority. Please write and I will answer all quickly so we can share experiences and enjoy ourselves as sisters.

Julie Thompson, P.O. Box 896, Buffalo, NY 14205

MARSHA W. (NYC) (#55)

Hetero CD. Would like my wife to meet other Spanish speaking wives whose husbands crossdress. I would like to attend group discussions with others like me.

H. Winston, P.O. Box 1311 Wall St. Sta., NY, NY 10268

ALEXANDRA McKAY (NYC) (#55)

Member: CT Outreach

41, 6', 245, whit. Seeks friends in Staten Island, Elizabeth, Bayonne, NYC, Brooklyn, Queens. Enjoy classical music, war games, science fiction & computers.

Alexandra McKay, P.O. Box 140297, Staten Island, NY 10314 (NY-2466)

JENNIFER B. (LI NY) (#56)

SWM, 41, 5'9", TV. Interests: metaphysics, psychology, reading, fashions. "Shy novice trying to bloom. Love lingerie, corsets, feminine costumes and fantasies. Seeks meetings and correspondence with TV's and TS's or anyone with like interests. Live on Long Island."

Jennifer B. (NY-2441)

Jan Marie E. NY-2443

JAN MARIE E. (NYC) (#56)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Poconos

Brown hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 160, 33. "I love all things feminine, shopping, dining, sports, and travel. Just coming out. Wife doesn't accept. Life long TV with TS feelings. Need help with makeup and friends."

Jan Marie E. (NY-2443)

TERRI SHANNON (W NY) (#56)

SWM pre-op TS, 42, 5'10", usually brown hair. Enjoys motorcycling, camping, photography, modeling, tall males, and M-F couples. Lively and personable, although sometimes shy-to-introspective. I am told that I am very passable, yet seek new and understanding female & male friends, and couples to bolster my fem ego. I enjoy quiet dates and small party life. An exhibitionist at heart, I travel NY State and Easter Ontario extensively and seek escorts and good friends. Love to model my large wardrobe. Will meet New Yorkers and Ontarians who send photo and letter of interests.

Ms Teri Shannon, P.O. Box 1091, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (NY-1906)

LAURA STONE (W NY) (#56)

5'10", 45, 150, TV, hetero. Interests include art, movies, good food and fashion. Interested in corresponding with other TV's in the Northeast; travel a lot and would like to visit with others when in their location.

Laura Stone, P.O. Box 482, Amherst, NY 14226 (NY-1924)

Heidi Ann C. NY-2522

HEIDI ANN COBART (N NY) (#56)

Married, 34, transgendered. Have been dressing all my life. Could not have gotten as far as I have with my acceptance without a lot of supportive counseling, friends, and a loving wife, and most recently an accepting mother-in-law. Am a very feminine dresser, and love to express that part of myself as much as possible. My wife and I are looking forward to hearing from other individuals and married couples who share this common bond that we are all struggling with for friendship and support. Serious replies will get quick response as I love to write. Mail can be sent to:

Heidi Ann Cobart, 1 Bleecker Terr., Apt 105, Albany, NY 12206 (NY-2522)

Josephine C. NY-0880

JOSEPHINE (SE NY) (#57)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, ABC, CDM/NY

Participant: Principal events in US and Europe.

Hetero, married, middle-aged, 5'10", engineer. Very long life as a TV. Love shopping and going out for dinner; also, gardening, cooking, photography, and all that concerns housekeeping. Travel a lot, and enjoy meeting others, including those from abroad. Will reply to all mail, and would like to exchange photos. Looking for company to go out en femme with. Would like to increase my experiences as a TV.

J. Chara, P.O. Box 671, Tarrytown, NY 10591 (NY-0880)

BARBARA V. (W NY) (#55)

WM, 5'11", 160, 42. Enjoys astronomy and boating. Would like to meet a transsexual that has gone through or is going through the process of being a female. Prefer from upstate NY.

Mr. Harold M. Vargason, 14407 Baker Rd, Kent, NY 14477 (NY-2511)

DENISE D. (W NY) (#55)

5'11", 175, nice shape. Love to dress up. I am on hormones, and totally feminine. First ad. Please send photo & telephone #, & I will do the same.

Denise Downton, Box 2802, Binghamton, NY 13902-9998

MAUREEN (C NY) (#56)

Member: EON

Educated, professional, single, middle-age, 6'2", 220. Interested in music, opera, theater - the Arts in general, and travel. Would love to meet others in the area, and on the East coast. Value friendship, honesty, and discretion. Enjoy evening gowns and lovely furs. Furs are my passion.

Maureen (NY-2697)

Gloria F. NY-1358

GLORIA (N NY) (#56)

SWM, late 50's, 5'8", 155, semi-androgynized GTV, on hormones, quiet, educated, simple tastes. A lifelong TV, I enjoy all aspects of the feminine lifestyle. Interests include outdoors activities, photography, classical music, opera, homelife, and crossdressing. Live alone, and dress as I wish. Looking for new friends.

G. Fuhrman, P.O. Box 60, North River, NY, 12856 (NY-1358)

CHRISTINA SCHULTZ (LI NY) (#57)

Single, hetero TV. Early thirties, 5'8", 140. Interested in rock and classical music, science fiction, and computers. Have been dressing since childhood, but still need help working on my feminine image. Looking to make some new friends.

Chris S., Box 233, Lindenhurst, NY 11757 (NY-1981)

Victoria W. NY-2597

VICTORIA M. WEBER (LI NY) (#56)

SWM, 30, hetero. Brown hair, size 16 tall. Trying to come out of the closet boldly - but only succeeding timidly. Enjoys computers, role-playing games, science fiction (esp. Star-Trek), and all fabulous, fun, frilly, feminine finery! Big fan of Lane Bryant and Lerner catalogs and stores ("have card - will shop", or "if the Puma fits - buy it!")

V. Weber (NY-2597)

Constance L. NY-1929

CONSTANCE LEE (W NY) (#57)

MWM, 38. I just love writing to and hearing from all my sisters, new and old. Anxious to call you "friend", and to be known as such.

C. Lee, P.O. Box 368, Derby, NY 14047-0368

RICKY HUNT (W NY) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

6'1", 250, married, two kids, all know and accept. Interested in computers, photography, science fiction, folk music, and writing. As with most things, I am an oddball, even among my sisters. Writing as "The Bearded Lady", I concentrate on the humorous side of our hobby. Although an irregular letter-writer, I always answer, and enjoy hearing from anyone.

Ricky H., Box 10003, Brighton, NY 14610 (NY-1044)

Danielle A. NY-2695

DANIELLE AZCET (LI NY) (#56)

Member: IFGE (supporting)

36 year old single white male TV, TS leanings. First listing in Tapestry. I endeavor to communicate with others as I am, only recently acknowledging my internal dilemma. I have lived a solitary existence, never married, but realize that life is to be lived, not merely existed. Would like to share my life with my complement, if that person is out there.

Danielle A., Suite 1109, 339 Middle Country Road, Selden, NY 11784 (NY-2695)

JENNIFER WELLS (E NY) (#57)

Member: TGIC, Genderline, NYSGC

Participant: Texas T-Party, Paradise in the Poconos, Poconos Fantasy, IFGE Conv.

DWTS, pre-op, 5'11", blue eyes, brown/red hair (sometimes blonde), 185. Section Leader for CompuServe's Genderline, Outreach Director TGIC, publishes
Gender Journal and informational brochures. Generally unable to answer personal letters.

Jennifer Wells, P.O. Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181 (NY-1597)

GLORIA (LI NY) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

60, retired HS teacher, size 22, interested in bridge, opera, ballet, and women's clothing. Wife knows, but objects. I would especially like to receive letters for my wife Mary, from wives, describing how they felt when they found out about their husband's crossdressing, and explaining how they adjusted to it.

Gloria (NY-2711)

LEIGH ANNE KOSLEY (E NY) (#57)

41, 6'2", 210, hazel eyes, size 18 dress and size 14 shoe. Active military. Interests include theater, model railroads, music, aerobics, and racquetball. Interested in correspondence with others of the same interest. Would also like to meet a woman who would like to share the same likes and life.

Leigh Anne K. (NY-1971)

Jodie P. NY-0973

JODIE PAULINO (W NY) (#56)

Member: Rochester CD-Network, Tri-Ess.

Hetero TV, born 1948, married 1972, 2 children, engineer. Interests include photography, cinema, home video, vegetable gardening, swimming. I have been crossdressing since the age of 12. I was married in '72, and told my wife in 1986. After a very rough first year, she has grown more tolerant, but doesn't want to see me as Jodie. We have two daughters, ages 14 and 8. My older daughter knows, and is accepting. I am membership coordinator of the Rochester CD-Network, a local support group for TV and TS.

Jodie Paulino, P.O. Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615, Phone (716) 251-2132
(NY-0973)

CHARLEY (E NY) (#57)

Member: TV Entertainers of Albany

5'11", 240, ash blonde, blue eyes, poor, bisexual. Interests include reading, writing, and cable TV. Love to write letters, and want to make friends. Can't pass in public, too poor for electrolysis. Want to meet others. Am just coming out of the closet.

Charley (NY-2773)

FRAN BALLEN (LI NY) (#57)

Member: Eulenspiegel Society

SWM, TV, 5'9", 150, 49. Love to go to discos. History buff. Like to meet fellow TV's for girl talk and dressing up; would also like advice on improving my femininity. Would enjoy going out with sisters from the NY, CT, NJ, and Long Island area. Very discrete.

Fran (NY-2781)

PENNSYLVANIA (150- 196-)

Sheila K. PA-0336

SHEILA KIRK (W PA) (#54)
IFGE Board of Directors (Executive Committee), 'Coming Together' staff
Member: Tiffany Club, TransPitt, Paradise
Participant: Everything
Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings.
Sheila K. (PA-0336)

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Outreach
SWM hetero crossdresser, 60+, 5'9", 190. "It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."
Catherine D. (PA-0748)

DAVIDA T. (E PA) (#56)
SWM, 39, shy and discreet. Just starting to come out, thanks to a few friends. Enjoy spending my free time being as feminine as possible. I'm seeking friends who would like to share that time with.
Davida T. (PA-0944)

JENNIFER WHITE (W PA) (#56)
Member: TransPitt, Paradise
Participant: 'Be All'
5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes. Interests: Sports, fashion, writing, photography. "Looking for males for escorts, CD's for shopping, going out, etc. Nothing bizarre, please.
Jennifer White (PA-1722)

SUE ANN S. (C PA) (#55)
SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 150, 45. Interested in meeting TV's, TS's, & women for dining, dancing, shopping, girl talk, etc. No drugs or heavy drinkers.
Sue Ann S. (PA-1458)

Janet R. PA-1879

JANET ROSE (PA) (#57)
Participant: Be All
SWM TV, 47, 5'11", 149. Interests: business, race cars, domestic chores, crossdressing. I do turn into an exhibitionist in front of a camera. Would love to meet mature, understanding women for fun and friendship. Girlfriend also interested in meeting CDs/wives. I have come a long way in the last 30 years. I hope I can go much further!
Janet Rose (PA-1879)

Robin F. PA-0932

ROBIN FREY (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
42-year-old pre-op would love to find employment and live full-time as a female. Free to travel; would love for other TVs and TSs to give me a call.
Robin, Box 1341, West Chester, PA 19380 (215) 696-6468 (PA-0932)

ROBIN F. (W PA) (#54)
SWM, 39, 6'1", 165. Professional. Interests: Jogging, jazz, mysteries, myth, mysticism, sports & cooking. Would enjoy dialogue with others interested in caring, non-exploitive, supportive relationships and psychology of crossdressing fantasies. Mine include frilly square dancing outfits, petticoats swirling under kilts, and ballerinas.
Robin F. (PA-2020)

Alison L. PA-1242

ALISON LAING (E PA) (#58)
Member: Renaissance
Awards: FF Miss Congeniality
Middle age, middle sized, life-long CD. Married with wonderful supportive spouse. Enjoys arts and crafts, jewelry and fabrics. Loves to shop at fleamarkets and antique shops. Loves good food, wine, travel and dancing. "I take my gender shift very seriously and work hard to be at least unobtrusive if not passable. Most of all I try to have lots of fun and at the same time help make others in our community happy."
Alison Laing, P.O. Box 635, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Harriet N. PA-1623

HARRIET (W PA) (#55)
Member: Transpitt
Tall, thin, caring professional, size 16T, 46, athletic. I think Shelly Tall Girl shops are "almost heaven". My dream is to play tennis with Renee Richards.
Harriet (PA-1623)

CAMMILLE S. (W PA) (#54)
Rather middle aged (40's), plumpish leather freak who for the most part is closet bound. Love to get letters, though often forget to respond to them. Try to emulate '50s type woman, heavily padded, dressed too warmly, overly made-up, and overweight (not by design). Also like satin when found, and total feminine appearance.
Cammille S. (PA-1274)

Maryann K. PA-1531

MARYANN KIRKLAND (E PA) (#55)
Member: Renaissance
MWM hetero TV, 5'11", late 30's, auburn hair, and expressive brown eyes. Interests: Classical ballet, opera, 19th century literature, fine wines, shopping & partying with other sisters. "I'm willing to work to create a positive educated public image of crossdressing. Fond of full skirts, petticoats, crinolines and hair ornaments. Those of like interest should write.
Maryann Kirkland, Suite 401, New Woman Marketplace, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Brenda D. PA-2253

BRENDA DAVIDSON (C PA) (#54)
Member: LSV Chapter Renaissance
SWM hetero TV, 26, 5'8", 150. Passes well. National ranked motorcycle road racer. I enjoy shopping, social events, helping and welcoming newcomers into our community. Enjoys music, a movie buff, being with true friends who accept me for who I am - a mix of male and female that comes together to form a truly unique person. I am interested in meeting and corresponding with other people across the country, especially in the Central PA area.
Brenda D. (PA-2253)

JAMIE W. (C PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
5'10", 180, 50's. Enjoys cross-dressing, leather, & high heels. New in the sisterhood.
Occupant, P.O. Box "J", Hershey, PA 17033

Sue C. PA-1536

SUE C. (C PA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Pocono W/E
58, 140, 5'10", has been crossdressing for many years. Supportive wife. My main interest is writing to & meeting others who enjoy their femininity. Have had some of the girls visit us for the weekend. Will not respond to sexually oriented letters, but will answer all others.
Sue C. (PA-1536)

Hillary C. PA-2387

HILLARY C. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
Participant: Paradise In The Poconos
Single TV, 5'10", 145, 24, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys dancing, sharing feelings, music, comedy and old movies. Would like to meet a passable, caring TV to share the joys of being a woman. Also would like to exchange photos, stories, and dreams.
H. Conway, P.O. Box 1556, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

PAMELA DRESSER (W PA) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess, Alpha-Omega.
Events attended: Texas "T" Party.
MWM, hetero, 5'10", 148, 45, size 12. Professionally employed. Wife is tolerant. Interested in boating, motorcycling, skiing, camping, canoeing, travelling, and of course, shopping. Although I've been crossdressing privately for many years, I've only recently developed the confidence to share my feminine side with others. Would love to correspond with any crossdressers who enjoy the non-sexual pleasures of feminine expression. My dream is to eventually locate enough hetero CD's to form a local self-support group.
R. Dresser, 2115 W. 8th St.. Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505 (PA-2455)

Sharon M. PA-2326

SHARON M. (E PA) (#55)
Member: Renaissance
SWM, 32, 5'10", 145. Lives in Phila area. Attractive, non-smoker, serious writer; interested in correspondence and dating females and "T" people. Crossdressing has come between my last two girlfriends and me. Time to start finding friends who understand.
Sharon M. (PA-2326)

Craig S. PA-1977

CRAIG SAMSON (E PA) (#54)
SWM, 35, athletically build and masculine in disposition. "I am seeking very feminine TV's or TS's between the ages of 21 to 25 to meet & develop possible long term relationships with. I work in construction & can travel to NY, NJ, & DE. Please send photo & phone. Will answer all those who meet my requirements.
Craig S. (PA-1977)

W.D.A. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance-Reading
Bi WM, 38, 5'7", stocky build, brown hair, green eyes. Interests: Fine dining, walks, music (especially jazz), dancing, movies, and theater. "Although I have not crossdressed, I have been attracted life long to those who do. At this point I would like to date TV/TS's and learn more on a personal basis of the TV/TS culture. Would also enjoy corresponding with those wishing to share their experiences. I will answer all correspondence ASAP."
W.D.A. (PA-2464)

Cindy H. PA-0952

CINDY H. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance, Phila. TS Support
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Pre-op TS, 5'9", 175, brown hair, hazel eyes, sagittarius, female hormone therapy, electrolysis. Very shy & isolated. Interests: Living female role, becoming woman, meeting masculine white males, music, videos, shopping, intimate dating. "Taking steps towards goal; sex reassignment surgery. Really enjoy living as a woman. Want to 'fit in' life, become a complete person, develop relationships with proper identities. Mentally, I've always considered myself to be female, have disguised male physical characteristics to appear female when going out in public."
Cindy H. (PA-0952)

MICHELLE (SE PA) (#56)
MWM, 38, 5'10", 185, college-educated professional. Enjoy fine lingerie, satin dresses, and high heels. Married to accepting and helpful wife. I'm a novice, and have never been out. Would like to correspond with other married couples concerning CD relationships.
Michelle (PA-2623)

PHYLLIS (W PA) (#56)
5'11", 36, white CD. Interested in skiing, art, music, guitar, trips to the country. Began crossdressing as a preteen. Cross-dress as frequently as possible, but afraid of going out into public. My need for crossdressing is progressively increasing. I feel quite alone, and would appreciate communications with others sharing same interest and feelings.
P.W., P.O. Box 18413, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 (PA-2770)

DELAWARE (197- 199-)

Phyllis L. DE-0931

PHYLLIS V. LARSON (DE) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
60, 6', 180, married 40 years to understanding wife. Self employed, often dresses in home & office, sleeps en femme. Electrolysis completed, active in sailing, has raced the Newport to Bermuda race, active in Protestant church. FAA rated pilot, resides in Southern Delaware. Letters answered.
Phyllis L. (DE-0931)

Emily S. DE-0629

EMILY SHELDON (N DE) (#57)
Member: Renaissance
Participant: Fantasia Fair, IFGE Convention, Paradise in Poconos.
Mature TV (50), pass easily in public. Enjoy fashion, friends, fun, helping others get out of the closet. Attend 2-3 TV meetings/month, 2-3 major TV events/year. Looking for passable girlfriends to go shopping, dining with, as well as roommates to share lodging expenses with. Seek correspondence with sisters everywhere.
E. Sheldon, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807 (DE-0629)

AUDREY J. STEELE (DE) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Holiday En Femme'
WWM TV, 5'10", 195, 54, blue eyes, brown hair. I am almost all the way "out

of the closet". My mother knows and accepts me as Audrey. 3 grown & married children don't know yet. I love all facets of cross-dressing, and dress a lot of the time. I like photography, model railroading, hunting, fishing, travel, meeting other CD's, writing to CD friends, making new friends, talking "girl-talk". Will answer. Please write.

John J. Steele Sr., RD 2, Box 226, Marydel, DE 19964 302-492-3813 (DE-2434)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (200- 205-)

TOM D. (DC) (#55)

WM, 5'9", 165, 50, light brown hair, blue eyes, fair to good looks. Stable, sincere, in good shape. Worked hard, travelled a lot, now ready to settle down and enjoy being with and caring for attractive and contented TS. I want to appreciate the opportunities of being there for you whenever it counts. Many interests and likes, actual and potential. All answered.

Tom D. (DC-2209)

Roberta L. DC-0972

ROBERTA LEWIS (DC) (#56)

Member: Washington-Baltimore Alliance

DBM, 38, 6'2", 200. Interests: Cycling, latest hits, going out, visiting the 'Big Apple'. "Even though the WBA takes a lot of my time, I still will find time to answer letters (please, only from CD's and transgendered persons). I still want to hear from other black CD's.

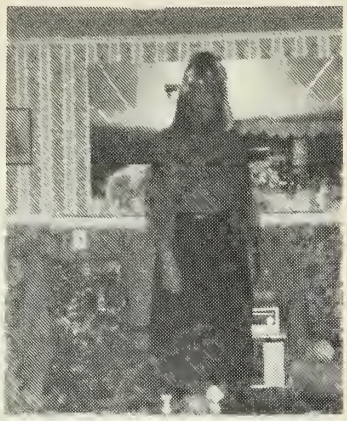
R. Lewis, P.O. Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724 (DC-0972)

MARYLAND (206- 218-)

MICHELLE LYNN GERALD (MD) (#57)

TS, 32. I enjoy reading, writing, cooking, and photography. My reading and writing interests are centered on those concerns sought after by the creative and romantic at heart. I am a shy and caring soul who desires to correspond with anyone in the TV/TS community. I am just beginning the long trek toward the complete adoption of a permanent feminine lifestyle. I would therefore be very grateful for any kind words and/or assistance provided along the way. I promise to quickly respond to any (and all!) inquiries I may receive.

Michelle Gerald, P.O. Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337



Ricki Ann MD-2137

RICKI ANN (MD) (#57)

MWM, 56, retired Catholic. Married 33 years. Interests include computers, ham radio, design and building, sci-fi, fantasy. All mail answered.

Ricki F. (MD-2137)

Dianne F. MD-2229

DIANNE FERN (MD) (#54)

MWM Bi TV/TS, 50's. Enjoys small social get togethers and intellectually stimulating conversations with TV/TS's and those who enjoy the exploration of all aspects of the femme lifestyle. Would like to meet people from the MD, DC, and VA area.

Dianne F. (MD-2229)

DAPHNE (MD) (#54)

TV, 26, tall, young, slim. Interests: Books, "now" music. Interested in corresponding with other curious TV's. I have only shared my secret with sympathetic SO's, and long to communicate with other folks about this. Discreet and curious.

R. Totale, P.O. Box 482, Annapolis, MD 21401

LISA N. (C MD) (#57)

MWM, 5'9", 40. I have been crossdressing since I can remember, but now I need a new beginning; a search for the real me. It's been a few years since I've gone out in public dressed - help! Wife is generally tolerant / infrequently supportive. Would sincerely enjoy corresponding with other TV, and would enjoy meeting with those in DC/Balt./So. Md. area. I'm a friend of Bill W.

Lisa N. (MD-2640)

Nancy Ann B. MD-2046

NANCY ANN B. (MD) (#54)

Member: DCEA, WBA, Tri-Ess

5'9", 160, brown eyes & hair. Have cross-dressed since I was 12. Now go out to meetings, dinners, & have danced in night clubs. My whole family knows how I feel. Have five real sisters, no brothers, & all have said they accept me. Write & exchange photos with sisters throughout the country. Please write!

Bob Burdick, 3511 Forest Edge Dr 1-D, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Eleanor MD-2747

ELEANOR (C MD) (#56)

WM TV, 41, 5'10", 170, blue eyes, brown hair. I have been dressing for 25+ years, but only accepted this part of my nature 10 years ago. Dress often. I like the professional, feminine, conservative style, which fits my nature as a management woman. Hope to meet and/or correspond with other TV-CD's and TS's. Will respond to all who write.

Eleanor (MD-2747)

MARIAN BEDDILL (MD) (#54)

53, 6', engineer. Interests: Computer use, travel, mapping, sailing, dancing, long curly hair, & heels. Lifelong TV, now out in selected environments, but not at work. Travel a lot on the job. On JSS BBS.

Marian B. (MD-2305)

ROSA R. (C MD) (#57)

6'1", 195, 60, widowed 11 years. Not passable at present. Big interest in being very buxom. Would enjoy writing to all who share these feelings. Very much into dressing feminine on most evenings. Enjoy relaxing in heels, stockings, lingerie, wigs. Will correspond with all who like "girl-talk" concerning same. Would like to correspond with she-males, also.

Rosa R. (MD-2653)

ANN MILLER (C MD) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 39, 6', 180, lifelong TV. Ready to start out of the closet. Interested in corresponding with other TV's and TS's. Educated, responsible person desiring to meet same. Please respond with photo.

Ann M. (MD-2776)

Julia C. MD-2739

JULIA CYBELE (C MD) (#57)

Member: IFGE. Mensa

1952 Libra, 5'10", 180, dark blonde tresses; sensitive, feminine INFP; slowly emerging TS. Interests include classical and new-age music; cosmetology and cosmology, goddess adoration; reincarnation; the numinous, mystical and transcendent; beauty to all the senses, sunsets, teas, cultures of Antiquity; science-fiction, pen-friends; girl-talk, and the joy of laughter.

Julia (MD-2739)

VIRGINIA (220- 246-)

SUSAN REYNOLDS (VA) (#56)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess

Participant: P-town and Poconos gatherings

Reasonably passable. Love sleek clothing. Adore being VERY buxom when at home. I write to a number of sisters, and especially enjoy writing to those sisters who like being buxom. Am very happy and content with myself as a

woman.

Susan Reynolds, Box 11160, Alexandria, VA 22312 (VA-0017)

Christina S. VA-1868

CHRISTINA S. (VA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 40s, 6', 185. Enjoy photography, big band music, collectable records, cooking, and going out dressed whenever possible. Also like to correspond with other sisters. Forming new Tri-Ess group in Richmond, VA area. Would like to attend Holiday En Femme or similar large event.

Christina Smith, P.O. Box 34621, Richmond, VA 23234 (VA-1868)

Kemberly C. (VA-2300

KEMBERLY CARLSON (N VA) (#55)

Member: Delta Chi

DWM, 5'11", 50, size 18, live in DC area with SO. Comfortable with self, ventures out dressed last 3 years. Love to pose in front of camera, water skiing, boating, and stained glass Enjoy all aspects of femme lifestyle. Would like to write & meet others who enjoy crossdressing. I have a sense of humor, and can laugh at myself & enjoy life. Will respond quickly to all inquiries I receive.

Kem Carlson, P.O. Box 2146, Reston, VA 22090 (VA-2300)

LYNN H. (VA) (#54)

Tall, slightly overweight. "I enjoy cooking, games, and meeting people who want to enjoy positive aspects of life."

Lynn H. (VA-1318)

Sheila W. VA-2276

SHEILA W. (VA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

37, 6', 185, married, lifelong CD. Prior military. I am always working on my makeup and appearance. I am athletic, and have a good figure. I enjoy correspondence and sharing experiences. Hobbies include woodworking, reading, and most outdoor activities.

Sheila W. P.O. Box 64593, VA. Beach, VA 23464 (VA-2276)

Robin M. VA-2351

ROBIN MARTIN (VA) (#56)

SWM, 35, 5'7", 155. Enjoys all things creative and artistic. Likes decorating, working out and dressing for the total look whenever possible. Would like correspondence and photo swaps with others who enjoy and understand this "special" lifestyle.

Robin Martin, P.O. Box 955, Salem, VA 24153 (VA-2351)

LINDA COULTER (VA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Brown-eyed blonde, good sense of humor. Am interested in gourmet cooking, music, photography, female fashions. Will correspond with other TV's.

Linda C. (VA-0703)

Diane P. VA-2460

DIANE PARIS (N VA) (#55)

Hetero TV, 5'9", 45. Loves to go out dressed and does often. Enjoys shopping, dinner, strolling, movies, and at-home dinner parties at home with very supportive and understanding wife. Love to correspond and to meet, especially with wives/girlfriends. Travels extensively. Please write soon so we can have fun together.

Diane Paris, P.O. Box 478, Oakton, VA 22124

Kay G. VA-0323

KAY GOULD (VA) (#56)

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoy all aspects of feminine lifestyle. Strong personality with ultra feminine tastes. Enjoy fine music, dining, theater, and high fashion. "I date extensively, and travel heavily throughout the US. I appreciate male escorts in most cities. Am very accomplished in all feminine ways but am demanding in personality. I also write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 8562, Alexandra, VA 22306 (VA-0323)

JANE A. (VA) (#54)

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing

DWM TV, 6'2", 240, 38, brown hair, blue eyes. I used to live in Salem, MA, and enjoyed the Tiffany Club and their outings. I've been living in Roanoke VA the past two years & I miss my TV/TS friends. I am sending out an SOS! Please write!

Jane A. (VA-2169)

ROBIN MARTIN (VA) (#56)

SWM, 35, 5'7", 155. Enjoys all things creative and artistic. Likes decorating, working out and dressing for the total look whenever possible. Would like correspondence and photo swaps with others who enjoy and understand this "special" lifestyle.

Robin Martin, P.O. Box 955, Salem, VA 24153 (VA-2351)

Jayne M. VA-1206

JAYNE (VA) (#57)

Late 40's, 5'8", 165, blue eyes, light brown/grey hair. Interests include dressing, writing, reading. Although a lifelong CD, I am still learning about my feminine side, and how to make Jayne the best she can be. Anxious to correspond with all sisters - to learn from them, and to share that which few outsiders can - or will bother - to understand.

Jayne M., 7010 Brookfield Plaza, Springfield, VA (VA-1206)

DEBBIE OGLE (C VA) (#57)

Pre-op MTF TS, 6', 180, dk. brown hair, blue-green eyes, fair skin. Interests include computers, sci-fi fantasy, music (Renaissance, Moody Blues, etc.), TG people. I am planning to be full-time by Jan '91. Am interested in meeting or corresponding with TV/TG/TS/GG's, especially in the Lynchburg, Roanoke, Charlottesville area.

Debbie O. (VA-2095)

WEST VIRGINIA (246- 268-)

Kaye L. WV-2435

KAYE LORRAINE LIGHTNER (WV) (#55)

Member: OPERN, WVTV

Lifelong CD, just getting into CD/TS community. Interests: Sci Fi, classical music, films (history, gossip, cult flicks). Am better than average cartoonist and portrait artist. Wife accepting - sometimes enthusiastic. My wife is interested in corresponding with spouses of other CD's. I am presently employed in helping profession. Hope one day to get into the field of gender counseling. TV/TS group forming in Kayawha Valley area. Write for details.

Kaye L. (WV-2435)

Tabetha T. WV-2453

TABETHA ANN TAMBOR (WV) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, CrossPort, Trans WV

hetero CD, early 20's, 6', 170. Enjoys music (Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, B-52's and the Communands sound great to me), fantasy (Heinlein, Foster, Anthony), raising tropical fish, collecting coins, Christianity, photography and daydreaming. "I've always enjoyed dressing up, but just recently had the chance to go out. I will correspond with anyone, especially GG's around my age. Please write to me."

Tabetha T. (WV-2453)

PRISCILLA WENTWORTH (WV) (#57)

Member: Crossroads

MWM TV, 5'10", 170. Retired from Foreign Service. Widely travelled, broad interests. Likes to correspond with other TVs/TSs.

P.M. Wentworth, Box 687, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (WV-0640)

DAVENE JOHNSON (WV) (#54)

45. Have been confused about myself & my feelings since I was 3. Just recently accepted my feminine side. My wife cannot accept my feminine side. I would like to find employment in another city & state so as not to cause any further hurt to my family. Anyone who might help me in obtaining decent employment elsewhere please write. Desperate!

Davene Johnson, P.O. Box 430, Fort Ashby, WV 26719 (WV-2329)

BEVERLY R. WILLIAMS (W WV) (#56)

Member: Trans-WV

WM, 5'10", 41. Interests include beautiful clothes, cooking, photography, and travel. I have been a CD since age 7. The feminine side of my personality is very strong. I really enjoy my femme world, and am very comfortable with myself. It has not always been easy - Trans WV has been a big help! I would like to correspond with CD's, TV's, and TS's. I want to learn as much as I can. Growth is what life is all about.

Beverly W. (WV-2687)

Renee WV-2604

RENEE (S WV) (#56)

Member: Crossport, TWV

MWM, 5'10", 225, brown eyes. Married to understanding and very supportive wife. Enjoys shopping, girl talk, and picture-taking sessions. Not comfortable going out yet, but loves crossdressing. Would like to hear from other sisters in WV and surrounding areas.

Renee (WV-2604)

NORTH CAROLINA (270- 289-)

GERI McGREGOR (NC) (#54)

Divorced, white, career person, 5'4", 140, 39, red hair, blue/green eyes. Life-long crossdresser, just coming out and in need of help with makeup, etc. Possess very strong TS feelings. Love all things feminine. Other likes include cats, plants, music, and intellectual conversation not to mention long walks and romantic evenings. Seek correspondence and meetings from like-minded sisters and women. Desire companionship from a tall, very understanding professional male.

Geri Mc. (NC-2136)

Frances T. NC-1245

FRANCES T. (NC) (#54)

Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess

Participant: Coming Together, Be All

Late 30's, 5'7", 140. I pass very well and enjoy shopping and chatting with store clerks, manicurists, hair dressers, etc. who know me. I flew dressed to my last convention and look forward to doing the same next year. I also enjoy browsing through women's magazines and dress catalogues. I am not keen on written correspondence.

Frances T. (NC-1245)

Sandy J. NC-0906

SANDY JOHNSON (NC) (#57)

5'7", 140 lbs. Interested in corresponding with other TVs, TSs to achieve a better understanding and acceptance of our community.

Sandy J. (NC-0906)

CATLIN MICHELLE WHITFORD (NC) (#54)

SWM CD, 6'2", 38, 215, blond, blue eyes. Seeking correspondence from all CD's with particular interest in NC, SC, VA. Seeking tender, understanding S.O. Possible marriage? Send picture, and will reply with same.

C. Whitford, P.O. Box 733, Bridgeston, NC 28519

Melody A. NC-1930

MELODY DIANNE ALLEN (NC) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, single, 5'7", 125, light brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys music, photography, billiards. Would love to correspond and/or meet other TV's, TS's, etc., for friendship, fun, what have you. Can entertain in my home, or travel.

Melody Allen, P.O. Box 14683, Raleigh, NC 27620 (NC-1930)

Suzanne B. NC-2414

SUZANNE ELIZABETH BISHOP (NC) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Tall, slender, blue-eyed blond, enjoys yoga, jogging, reading, music, conversation and the arts. Although relatively closeted for family and business reasons, I do go out from time to time with no problems. Would like to meet other CD's in my area for friendship and fun.

Suzanne B. (NC-2414)

BRENDA W. (NC) (#55)

SWM, late 30's, brown hair, blue eyes. Life-long crossdresser attractive and sincere by very shy. I would like to correspond with other TV's and share our experiences. Would love to meet a really pretty, passable TV, TS or an understanding, caring woman. Please share your femme side with me.

Brenda W. (NC-2301)

RACHEL MORGAN (NC) (#55)

Almost married WM, 23. Beginning to discover the joys of integrating the positive aspects of being a woman into my male persona. Not comfortable with "going public" yet, but I am comfortable with being a TV. Enjoy sci-fi, especially Bradbury, Clarke & Herbert. Love music esp. Pink Floyd. Would like to correspond with other couples who have overcome the problems inherent with being a TV in a relationship, and those who have developed a mature balanced approach to crossdressing.

Rachel M. (NC-2272)

Elaine R. NC-2304

ELAINE ROBBINS (NC) (#54)

5'7", 155, single. Enjoys good conversation, reading, music, travel, and the outdoors. "I love dressing as a girl, but it's been lonely. Please write. I'd love to have understanding friends.

Elaine Robbins, P.O. Box 5904, Ilanover Center, Wilmington, NC 28403-0879 (NC-2304)

NANCY L. (NC) (#56)

DWM, 42, 5'10, 150, blonde hair, hazel eyes, life long CD'er. Enjoys music, dancing, swimming in my pool and shopping for anything feminine. Would like to correspond and meet other CD/TV/TS's for a friendship and sharing all feminine interests. I'm looking for a special person who is honest, loving and caring to share a home with and let our femininity grow together. Will answer all who write and send photo.

Nancy L. (NC-2504)

KAREN HAYNES (NC) (#55)

M-F pre-op TS, 28, 5' 10", 155, red hair, green eyes. Interests include architecture, photography, music, and just having fun. "I'm in the process of transition, and looking for, and willing to give non-sexual support to persons of the TS/CD/TS sector. Really want to start support groups and information exchange in the Greensboro-Raleigh, NC area."

Ms. karen Haynes, P.O. Box 1954, Greensboro, NC 27404-0954 1-919-299-6925 (NC-2506)

TABITHA VALKYRIE (C NC) (#56)

MW and pre-op TS, hetero (but not really sure of that at this time). 43, 5'7", 130. I am blessed with a very supportive wife and children (I'm lucky). Would like to correspond with others, period. Am interested in amateur radio, but don't have my license yet. Very active in sports and other activities. Would like to help found a support group here in Raleigh, NC...anyone. Anyone that has, or is currently suffering from Attention Deficit Disorder also asked to reply. I have been a diaper fetishist most of my life as well.

Tabitha V. (NC-2616)

Wet 'n Wild (NC-2616)

SOUTH CAROLINA (290- 299-)

BOBBI RENEE LONG (SC) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Age 54, mostly public, passable CD. Married. Love to shop and go clubbing dressed.

Bobbi Renee Long, P.O. Box 210276, Columbia, SC 29221

JACKIE C. (SC) (#54)

Member: Kappa Beta

Married, 48, 3 years college, occupation - transportation. My interests are my home & my family. Have understanding wife, but have not been out in public as yet.

Jackie C. (SC-2338)

Alicia H. SC-2533

ALISHA MICHELLE H. (SC) (#56)

MWM, 5'5", 140, mid 50's. Interests: Swimming, fishing, photography, dressing. "Have been CD since age 10. Have never had any contact with any sisters. Need help with makeup & voice. Would like to correspond with other sisters in my area."

Alisha H. (SC-2533)

GEORGIA (300- 319-)

KATHY ANN KELLY (GA) (#54)

6', brown hair/eyes, nice legs. Loves to dress, wants to be as feminine as possible. Needs companionship.

Kathy Ann Kelly, P.O. Box 957265, Duluth, GA 30136-9522

STEPHANIE ROSE (NW GA) (#56)

23, 5'10",140, single. Interests include clothes, computers. I'm looking for a girlfriend who can accept this, and also for friends. I dress somewhat conservatively, but like to show my legs when shaved. I've been going out dressed for a few months now, and I like to think I could pass with a little more effort.

S. Rose, P.O. Box 1442, Lilburn, GA 30226 (GA-2622)

D-Jae S. GA-2126

D-JAE SHERE (GA) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon, GIC

MWM, early 40's, 5'8", 180, travel much. Love to meet people, make friends, correspond, etc. Technical career, likes aviation, ham radio, outdoors, etc. Goes out occasionally, dresses often (away from home). Wife is great lady, but doesn't accept/approve yet. Love to hear from y'all.

Jae Shere, P.O. Box 89, Lithia Springs, GA 30057 (GA-2126)

Dianne K. GA-1298

DIANNE KENDALL (GA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Life-long TV, willowy, sensuous, very feminine with extensive, fashionable wardrobe including much precious lingerie - mostly pink - and heels for every outfit and occasion. Wants to meet, correspond with and talk to TVs, TSs, and GGs who love and appreciate the feminine as much as I do. Also write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls. Let's be girls together in Atlanta or elsewhere.

Dianne Kendall, 3220-A Post Woods Dr, Atlanta, GA 30339 (404) 988-0667

HEATHER C. (GA) (#55)

5'7", 135, 19, brunette, very passable, great legs. "Would like to correspond with or meet locally with other TV's and TS's. I love sexy clothes and lingerie. I will answer all.

Heather C. (GA-2395)

Jamie L. GA-2286

JAMIE L. (GA) (#54)

Bi, 31, 6', 200, red hair, fair skin, single. Enjoys computers, sports, dressing up, shopping, being feminine, videomaking. "Looking for people to teach me more about cross-dressing. Even though I am a big person, I have passed in public. Race or gender is not important. What's inside of you is.

Jamie L., P.O. Box 846, Oakwood, GA 30566 (GA-2286)

Jocelyn R. GA-2612

JOCELYN RUSSELL (W GA) (#56)

TS. I would like to find an FAA-approved doctor to maintain my first-class medical. I am doing this on the up and up, and following the standards of care. I have started hormones, but don't think it would be wise to call the FAA's attention to what I am doing just yet. I can travel anywhere necessary.

J. Russell, 9003 Stoneleigh Trace, Douglasville, GA 30134 (GA-2612)

LINDA W. (GA) (#55)

Member: Tri Ess

Age 31, married - wife is supportive but has resisted spending time with Linda fully dressed. I'm a lifelong TV, but have only begun venturing out in full dress during the last 2 years - and I love it!! Interests include running, hiking, reading (everything), Tai Chi, Jazz and blues music. The genie is out of the bottle, & this girl is here to stay! Love to all.

Linda W. (GA-1486)

Connie L. GA-2611

CONNIE MICHELLE LYNN (C GA) (#56)

MWM, hetero TV, 6'2", 240, 27, still in closet, but wanting to get out sometime. Enjoy anything feminine, such as dressing up, make-up, shoes; also any kind of music, golf, reading, shopping. Would like to correspond, and possibly meet other CD/TG/TS's for friendship, sharing of feminine secrets and interests, or just "girl talk". Would like yo see my femininity grow with a little help. I will answer all correspondence.

C. Lynn, P.O. Box 1742, Gray, GA 31032 (GA-2611)

JoAnna M. GA-2722

JOANNA (NW GA) (#57)

Member: IFGE

39, 6', 147, blond hair, blue eyes, TV, married. Busy professional just now making the time to pursue my feminine side (loving every minute of it). Life-long TV. Almost passable, and getting better. Interests include the outdoors, photography stills or video (either side of the lens), music, travel, and people. Looking forward to meeting new friends, GG's, TV's, TS's with similar interests who also feel good about themselves, for correspondence, photo exchange, and personal/social relationships. Travel no problem. Will answer all.

Joanna Monit, P.O. Box 490983, Atlanta GA 30349 (GA-2722)

FLORIDA (320- 340-)

Petra D. FL-1314

PETRA D. (FL) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon Chapter

Mid-thirties, married to supportive wife with one daughter. I have recently come out after joining the local Tri-Ess chapter, but believe in the importance of sustaining the wider community of CD's and TG's. I have just moved to north Florida and would be interested in communicating with others in my area. My interests include photography, computers, soccer, wearing pretty clothes, and projecting my inner femininity outwardly.

Petra D., P.O. Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315

Linda S. FL-0938

LINDA SCHREIBER (SE FL) (#56)

Married hetero TV. Professional. 6', 62, size 18, reddish hair. Loves shopping, quiet dinners, long talks, picnics, theater, and classical music. "Willing to be - and looking for - a dear friend to share life's experiences and to meet en femme from time to time. Still need help passing. Wife knows and accepts, but doesn't approve. Yet, being Linda totally fulfills and enriches me. Let's correspond.

Linda Schreiber, 4700 NW 7 St #235, Miami, FL 33126 (FL-0938)

Cynthia S. FL-1848

CYNTHIA SILVA (FL) (#57)

SWM, hetero CD, 60's, 5'9", 200 lbs.

Member: Tri-Ess

Interests: Working with my computer and amateur radio, VHF mobile, dressing whenever possible. Would like to meet or correspond with other hetero CDs, TVs, and understanding GGs for femme talk, improving my femme personality and appearance, and have photo sessions. Would like photo but not necessary.

Cynthia Silva, Box 18884, Tampa, FL 33679-8884 (FL-1848)

Robin B. FL-0611

ROBIN B. (C FL) (#54)

Member: Tiffany Club, Emerald City

MWM hetero, tall, slender. Interested in most everything. Wife totally despises TV/TS scene. I would love to hear from others who "confessed" to wife after 20 years.

Robin B. (FL-0611)

MS DALE LARSON (C FL) (#54)

Member: Central FL Sisters (President)

Heterosexual post-op M-F TS. 55, 5'11". Would like to hear from all crossdressers in Florida.

Ms Dale Larson, 11 Westchester Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744

Dawn Y. FL-1393

DAWN YOUNG (SE FL) (#54)

MWM hetero TV, 40, 6'1", 170. Loves everything feminine from short skirts to long dresses and heels. Would enjoy meeting and corresponding with others.

Dawn Young, P.O. Box 1355, Vero Beach, FL 32961

Samantha B. FL-2288

SAMANTHA B. (SE FL) (#55)

MWM, 46, 5'11", 175. would like to meet & correspond with other TV/TS's. Extensive wardrobe. Crossdresser for years with supportive wife. Would like to start attending events & become more involved.

Samantha B., P.O. Box 651024, Tropic Branch, Vero Beach, FL 32962

VANESSA THOMAS (C FL) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess Orlando, Central FL Sisters

Married, 40, can't dress at home because of older children - but do attend meetings out of area. Getting a better wardrobe and can pass a little. Would like to be fully a woman. Would like to meet other TV/TSs. Will answer all letters.

E.B., P.O. Box 1076, Venice, FL 34284-1076

BETH PHILLIPS (FL) (#54)

WM TV, 5'11", 175, 57. Wish to contact & correspond with other TV's & TS's in the Tampa Bay area.

Beth P. (FL-2185)

JACQUELYN NOWLING (FL) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon

Mid-50's, 6', 180. Interests: Wine making, reading, & being "Jacque".

Travel FL extensively and would like to write & meet all sisters possible. Wife is very supportive and active in wives support group in Sigma Epsilon.
Jacquelyn N. (FL-2063)

Samie B. FL-1793

SAMIE DIANNE B. (SW FL) (#56)
Widower, 63, 5'8", 160. Cross-dress whenever possible, & wear lingerie all the time. I have been a closet cross-dresser for 30 years with 2 wives land several women friends. I wore the dresses and they slacks. Now I want out of the closet.
Samie B. (FL-1793)

Donna W. FL-2481

DONNA WELLS (W FL) (#55)
SWM hetero TV, passable, professional, travel extensively. My interests? Much the same as many other sophisticated Southern ladies! Fashion and style, dressing up, shopping, dining, travel, etc. Especially dressing up! I keep up with world events, do a little photography, and enjoy conversation, too. Would like to meet with others who also love to dress. Please drop me a line, and a photo would be appreciated.
Donna W. (FL-2481)

Joan J. FL-1703

JOAN (FL) (#55)
Member: Southern Belles
SWM, 40, 5'11", 150, hetero-TV. Interests include exercising, golf. Would like to meet honest, sincere people for socializing
J. Jessip, P.O. Box 22412, St. Petersburg, FL 33742-2412 (FL-1703)

Elen L. FL-2636

ELEN (FL) (#57)
White, single CD, 5'6", 130, early 40's, brown eyes and brown hair, size 10. Interests include cooking, music and nature, camping and travel. Love wigs. Would like to correspond with, and meet other CD's. Would love to go out shopping and dining while dressed. Hope to go to some of the upcoming events of IFGE. Would love assistance in improving my femininity and passability.
Elen (FL-2636)

COLLEEN O. (S FL) (#54)
Single, 6'1", 51, 170, living with female who is helpful and understanding. Enjoys tennis, travel, feminine things, dining out, dancing, meeting interesting people. "I want to perfect my feminine image and personality. I want to become passable in public. I am hetero, and happy in present relationship.
Colleen O. (FL-2336)

Michelle FL-2692

MICHELLE (FL) (#57)
Single, Bi TV, 5'7", 135, attractive, passable, goes out often. Enjoy music, dancing, nightclubbing, friendship, romance. Want to correspond and meet with other TV/TS's, and to date men.
Michelle H., P.O. Box 451, Dunedin, FL 34697 (FL-2692)

Arlena S. FL-1466

ARLENA M. STARCHILD (N FL) (#54)
Member: IXE, Crossport, IPA
I am a bi-gendered person who wants to correspond with and meet with other sisters to discuss our mutual feminine desires, needs, and aspirations. I am a very caring, understanding, and loving sister who will help any and all sisters. I am experienced in all aspects of being my feminine self. Will answer letters very promptly.
Arlena S., (FL-1466)

LAURA (E FL) (#57)
Member: Crossroads, Central Florida Sisters
WM hetero TV, 46, 6', 160, passable, professional, widely travelled. I like to be Laura as much as possible. Usually spend weekends en femme, shopping, dining, etc. Active in TV group activities. Wish to correspond with, and meet other cross dressers from all over the U.S.
Laura O., Suite 226, 2899 E.Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48083 (FL-2106)

ALABAMA (350- 369-)

ANNE ARMSTRONG (AL) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
70, 5'10". Still closeted and would appreciate letters. Will reply quickly.
Anne Armstrong, P.O. Box 7331-A, Birmingham, AL 35253

RENEE' P. (AL) (#55)
Married TV, 35, dressed from earliest memories, professional. Interests: Art, travel, entertainment. Interested in corresponding with others with hopes of eventually meeting.
Renee' P. (AL-2535)

Mary Jane W. AL-2105

MARY JANE WALKER (N AL) (#57)
Member: Tri-Ess
A young 65 years old, 5'5", 165. Widowed, lives alone. Retired. A TG, I dress about 95 percent of the time. Enjoy shopping at malls and eating out en femme about twice a week. Have travelled en femme in AL, GA, and FL. Jazz musician (sax, clarinet, drums). Ex-railroader, also. Ex-commercial artist. Originally from St. Joseph, MO. Now living in N. AL. Interested in all aspects of crossdressing, TV/TS/TG. Would like to hear from, and possibly meet others in the N.AL or GA area. Will answer to all who write.
M. Walker (AL-2105)

MICHELLE S. (N AL) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 36, hetero-TV, 5'9", 200 (and losing), brown eyes, brown hair. One child and one on the way, aerospace engineer/scientist. Interested in cross-dressing for 15 years since a Halloween party. Wife brought me "out of the closet" two years ago, and supports me 110% . We work on my female image together. My wife has joined the wives and S.O.'s group of Tri-Ess. I am interested in computers, space program and exploration, photography, videography, aircraft, boating, business development, acrylic painting, psychology, writing,

reading (non-fiction), and interested very much in improving my female image. Both of us will write to others, either individually or as couples. We will write back as soon as we can. We are very much in support of IFGE, Tri-Ess, and the Gender Community as a whole.

Michelle Steadman, P.O. Box 12371, Huntsville, Alabama 35815-2371

Linda T. AL-2779

LINDA T. (C AL) (#56)

CD, 30. Would like to hear from crossdressers in the Southern states for correspondence and possible meetings to learn more about the CD lifestyle. Married, wife understanding. Will answer all letters that come with photo.

L.T. P.O. Box 101421, Irondale AL 35210 (AL-2779)

TENNESSEE (370- 384-)

Samantha T. TN-0934

SAMANTHA T. (W TN) (#56)

Member: SLGF, Dixie Belles

39+ years young, 5'8", use own long hair, very active in womanly role, deaf, taught how to speak & lip read. Interests: Fashions, arts, collecting anything which attracts my attention, my lovely house. I am hoping to make some friends in Western/Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and neighboring states. I am living close to "land between the lakes" national recreational park. Will answer all letters.

Samantha T., RT 2 Box 103B, Buchanan, TN 38222 (TN-0934)

SANDRA B. (TN) (#55)

MWM, 50's, 6', 170, blue eyes, considered very attractive, professional pilot. Interests are classical music, opera, art, travel, tennis, collecting antiques. Avid audiophile. I wish to meet & correspond with all who are sensitive, understanding, and who love to dress.

Sandra B. (TN-1640)

Tammi M. TN-1732

TAMMI MCINTYRE (E TN) (#56)

Member: Crossroads

Participant: 'Coming Together', 'Be All', Fantasia Fair

Tall, vivacious, fun-loving lady. "I love to shop. Have done some public speaking. I also love to go out dining and dancing. I would like to hear from others interested in our culture. I will try to respond to all contacts."

Tammi McIntyre, 5800 Central Ave Pike #4509, Knoxville, TN 37912 (TN-1732)

Robyn TN-2744

ROBYN (E TN) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 44, 5'8", 136, passable; professional, with an advanced college degree; involved in counselling. Love to go shopping en femme. Hobbies include singing, guitar playing, reading, fishing and baseball card collecting. I would like to correspond with either CD or TS individuals as well as genetic females interested in offering tips on improving one's feminine image. I will try to answer all letters.

Robyn (TN-2744)

RUBBER RACHEL (TN) (#55)

Attractive, 6', 170, blue eyes, TV. Would like to meet/correspond with professional, educated gentleman and TV's interested in the company of a talented boy/girl. Sincerity, good taste and understanding always. Love frilled latex panties, satin slips, and flared skirts.

R.R., P.O. Box 210362 Nashville, TN 37221-0362

MISSISSIPPI (386- 396-)

Leslie G. MS-2138

LESLIE GILL (MS) (#54)

Member: Beta Chi, Tri Delta Chi

MWM, 33, CD since 6, married with understanding and supportive wife. Wants to find other crossdressers in Mississippi. Will answer all correspondence.

Leslie G. (MS-2138)

KENTUCKY (403- 427-)

PATTI (KY) (#54)

MWM, 34. Could be passable with good makeup job. Good figure. Interested in music, dance, psychology, and vegetarian cooking. I would like to correspond with other TV/TSs for friendship, support and information exchange.

Patti (KY-2035)

LINDA BUTEN (KY) (#54)

Member: Cross-Port, IFGE Board of Directors

Participant: 'Be All', 'Coming Together'

MWM TV, 37, 6', 180. I enjoy meeting & corresponding with anyone interested. I've been in public for years and my adventurous nature has given me a complete understanding of myself and others. My wife and children know, understand, and love Linda as an extension of my jovial personality. You can usually find me at the IFGE convention & the Be All weekends. I also enjoy dating tall, well-mannered gentlemen who know how to treat a lady to the finer things in life.

Linda B. (KY-2001)

Linda B. KY-2001

Cindy L. KY-2283

CINDY LEE (KY) (#54)

MWM TV, 6', 160, 44, blond, blue eyes. Enjoy spending my free time being dressed as feminine as possible. Non-supportive wife, although she knows of my desires. I am a closet TV, and would like to come out. My TV feelings are getting harder to fight and corresponding with someone who understands would be helpful. Would like to join a TV group in the KY area.

Cindy Lee, P.O. Box 20256, Louisville, KY 40220-0256 (KY-2283)

Stephanie B. KY-2328

STEPHANIE B. (C KY) (#55)

MWM, 39, 5'7", 145, lifelong TV/TS, wife very unaccepting. Ready to start out of the closet. "I'm finally ready to pursue my desires to be a full time woman. Love all things feminine. Interested in corresponding with TS's & TV's. Educated, responsible person who desires to meet others in similar situation.

Stephanie B. (KY-2328)

OHIO (434-457-)

Catherine A. OH-1770

CATHERINE L. ANDREWS (OH) (#56)

Member: Transpitt

Participant: Be All, Lambda Ball

MWM CD, 5'7", 170, 45. As a lifelong CD I have accepted myself for "who I am". I enjoy meeting new people and corresponding. Deeply committed to the IFGE. I enjoy outreach programs and working for the good of our entire community.

Catherine A. (OH-1770)

TONI H. (OH) (#57)

Athletic TV from the Columbus area. If your closet is deep enough for two, write, and let's talk it over. Security is my password.

Toni H. (OH-1066)

Diane F. OH-1339

DIANE K. FERGUSON (OH) (#54)

Member: CrossPort

5'7", 135, 31, blonde hair, blue eyes, single - never married. I am a serious pre-operative TS, desiring to correspond/meet, and discuss items and topics of mutual interest. I love skiing, dancing, movies, and going to nice restaurants.

Diane K. Ferguson, P.O. Box 4617, Maineville, OH 45039-4617

Michelle M. OH-0954

MICHELLE M. (S OH) (#58)

Member: Paradise, Cross-Port, Alpha Omega

Hetero married crossdresser, 5'9", 170, educated, friendly. Married 15 years to an "A" wife who accepts and helps. An original organizer of Paradise. Enjoys crossdressing, hi-heels, "girl talk", and picture taking sessions. Needs help to enhance feminine voice. Interested in meeting other married crossdressers in SW Ohio.

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

JOANNE M. (OH) (#55)

6'0", 155, 35, blonde hair, blue eyes, TV with very strong TS desires. Interests: Sports, feminine fashions, and learning more about being a woman. Would like to correspond with and possibly meet pre- and post-ops, and also sympathetic females to help me further my feminine feelings.

JoAnne M. (OH-2212)

Michelle A. OH-2025

MICHELLE ANTHONY (OH) (#54)

5'9", 159, dark hair & eyes. Enjoys music, dancing. Recently came into my own as a TV, but have been dressing for years. I'm really a novice looking for exchange correspondence, pictures and to join a group. Would like to meet TV/TSs in Ohio area. Reply w/photo to get mine.

Michelle Anthony, P.O. Box 322442, Columbus, OH 43232

Jamie D. OH-2140

JAIMIE DOUGLAS (OH) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'10", 155, 26. Interests include fitness, shopping, music, sports, sexy clothing. Would like to correspond with other CD's and possibly get together with crossdressers in the Central Ohio area. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Jaimie D. (OH-2140)

LAURA STEVENS (N OH) (#56)

SWM, 45, college educated professional. Enjoys restoration of antique cars, jazz, walks on the beach, good food & travel. Seeking friendship, photo exchange, correspondence and possible meetings with TV's & TS's who can pass in public. Long range relationship with the right person is a possibility.

Laura S. (OH-2407)

Amanda L. OH-1670

AMANDA LYNN (OH) (#55)

Member: Paradise Club

SWM Bi-TV, still in closet and need friends. Would especially like female to help and build a lasting relationship. I smoke and am a social drinker. I bowl, golf, and enjoy the quietness of fishing. I am interested in hormone treatment. Enjoy all fem clothing, but get into looking slutty (sorry). PLEASE, no photo collectors. Only sincere people need to reply.

Amanda L. (OH-1670)

Camile N. OH-1721

CAMILE M. (NE OH) (#56)

Hetero TV, 47, 5'10", 160, med brown hair, works as a salesperson. Enjoys athletics, golf, reading, movies, good food, travel, & shopping. "Still in closet. Want to meet CD's & TV's & TS's to go out with and share myself with. Love everything feminine. Would like to meet a couple to help in making me more feminine.

Camile M. (OH-1721)

CHERYL VONDRESS (E OH) (#55)

DWM CD, 5'8", 165, brown hair, and blue eyes. TS orientation. Interests: All things feminine, sewing, and photography. Plan to seek SRS, but I have a long way to go. I need help with voice and obtaining hormones (or finding a doctor that will help.) I would like to hear from anyone interested in me as a female.

Cheryl V. (OH-2360)

Laura W. OH-2406

LAURA WHITE (NE OH) (#56)
Member: Paradise
MWM, hetero TV, 6'2", 175, blue eyes, 40, very feminine appearing. Enjoys aerobics, travel, reading. "I have been out of the closet for 3 years. Prefer to dress as a career business lady. Would love to meet with TV's in NE OH area. Will correspond with all who share similar interests. Please include photo.
Laura W. (OH-2406)

Tina E. OH-2424

TINA E. (SW OH) (#56)
Single TV, 5'10", 145, early 30's. I love music, theater, photography and sports. I love dressing pretty and feminine. I especially love high heels. I'm looking to correspond with TV's, TS's and women who love feminine attire. I've finally accepted myself and I am happy to be a TV. I'm sincere and caring. I'd love to be your girlfriend, so write me and maybe we could get together.
Tina E. (OH-2424)

GLORIA C. (SW OH) (#57)
MWM, 47, 5'10", 220, blue eyes, brown hair. Interests: computers, flying & building aircraft, amateur radio, square dancing, scuba diving, & forced crossdressing. Want to meet sincere friends, GG's & TV's for friendship. Non-supportive wife. Want to meet aggressive people, very eager for acceptance.
Gloria C. (OH-1993)

MARILYN CRISTI (NE OH) (#56)
Member: Paradise Club, IFGE
Participant: Chrprsn 1991 'Be All'
Married, 6', 210, B.A. psychology and theater, graduate studies in counseling and sociology. Interests: Circulating in public en femme, guest speaking on behalf of our "paraculture", dancing, tennis, music, old movies and sitcoms.
"Am researching the possibility of EOE rights for CD's. Need everyone's help. Please send a brief summary of the circumstances under which you were either hired, fired, or discriminated against because of your cross-dressing. If self-employed, describe your own hiring practices. All info submitted in any personal detail will be respectfully held in strictest confidence. Send return address and conditions for future correspondence.
Marilyn Cristi, P.O. Box 33496, Cleveland, OH 44133 (OH-1919)

Wayne L. OH-2671

WAYNE L. (E OH) (#57)
Single male, 30, country boy, outdoorsy type of guy. Enjoy motorcycling, nature walks, travelling, music. Would like to correspond and later meet with TV/TS's, 18-35, for understanding and supportive friendship and possible relationship. I'm discreet and sincere.
W.K., P.O. Box 282, Bellaire, OH 43906 (OH-2671)

JOANNE (NE OH) (#57)
MWM, 40, 5'10", 175, understanding wife. Interests include jazz, photography, fishing. I have been crossdressing since childhood, and have an extensive wardrobe. I love dressing, and would like to meet and correspond with other girls. So, let's exchange photos and letters, and maybe get together.
Joanne (OH-1941)

MEGAN (NE OH) (#57)
WM, 5'11", 230, from Lake County. Interested in astronomy and flying. Just coming out, and would like to find others in my area.
Megan (OH-2678)

Marjorie M. OH-2710

MARJORIE MILLER (NE OH) (#57)
Member: Paradise Club
SWM, 5'7", 165. Photography and working on cars. I have been dressing off and on since I was a child. I go out driving, and take short walks dressed. I'm very much alone and nervous when I'm out. Would like to meet someone in SW Cleveland area to dress and go out with. I'm somewhat passable, though afraid to go out in daylight.
Ms. Marjorie Miller, P.O. Box 44006 Biddulph Rd., Brooklyn, Ohio 44144 (OH-2710)

Susan M. OH-2053

SUSAN M. (N OH) (#57)
Member: Tri-Ess. Alpha Omega
Divorced, hetero CD. 51, 6.5', 185. I enjoy fishing, camping, old movies, and helping youngsters in Little League Baseball. I dress 2-3 time4s a week, and am still in the closet. I would like to correspond with hetero CD's in the Huron - Erie County area. If you are still in the closet, and frustrated, Sue would make a great girlfriend. Complete discretion given and expected. I'll try to answer all who write.
Susan M. (OH-2053)

JENNY WILLIAMS (NE OH) (#57)
5'11", 175, hazel eyes, brown hair, bi SWTV. Interests include the outdoors, photography, new age music, spiritualism, UFO's. I'm searching for TV's TS's and understanding women for friendship, support, and assistance in perfecting my feminine side. Possible roommate available if a lasting friendship comes about. I'm looking forward to coming out of the closet soon. ALL replies answered! I'm serious, aren't you?
Jenny W., 23146 Lorain #171, Cleveland OH 44070 (OH-2714)

KIMBERLY SUZANNE (SW OH) (#55)
MWM, 33, 6'3" with large frame, non-supportive wife. Interested in jazz and classical music, sports, quiet evenings, reading, enjoying the company of others. Would love to meet and correspond with TV's TS's and GG's to help explore the feminine possibilities of crossdressing. Still in closet, but looking for at least the light switch. First ever ad, will try to answer all.
Kimberly S. Graycheck, P.O. Box 751632, Dayton, OH 45475 (OH-1628)

INDIANA (463- 479-)

Michelle M. IN-1696

MICHELLE MICHAELS (C IN) (#56)
MWM TV, 40, 6'1", 200, 40, 3 children & supportive wife. Spent 25+ years in the closet with guilt, shame, & confusion. Drank & drugged to kill the pain of living. Clean & sober for 9 years. Today's struggles are centered around acceptance, self esteem and balance. Interested in opening dialogue & forming friendships with anyone on the same spiritual journey.
Michelle Michaels, Box 8091, Richmond, IN 47375 (IN-1696)

Yvonne C. IN-1009

YVONNE COOK (IN)

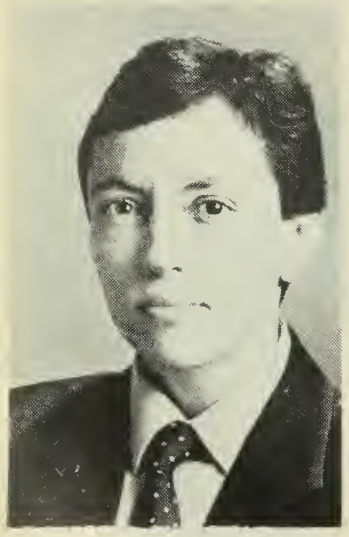
IFGE Director of Operations, IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Finance Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, CrossPort, IXE, TGIC, ETVC.

Participant: Chicago Spring Fling, "Be All", "Coming Together".

Friendly and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues.

Yvonne C. (IN-1009)



Dan R. IN-9999

DAN RILEY (IN)

Member: IXE, Adam Society

Female CD, 40. Sincere, caring individual. Interested in corresponding with other female-to-male CD's/TS's. Enjoys hiking, dancing, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, talking with others and helping others "coming out".

Dan Riley, (IN-9999)

GLORIA LYNN GIBSON (IN) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

SWM, tall, auburn hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys camping, hiking, reading, golfing, movies. I'm hoping to meet an understanding and sympathetic woman. Also look forward to meeting and sharing girl talk with 'sisters'. Wish to explore my femininity more deeply. Just coming out and looking for mutual support.

Gloria G. (IN-1480)

DEBORAH ANNE K. (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE

MWM TV, 48, 5'9", 150. Inexperienced but learning how to present my other self. Need training on makeup, care of wigs. Limited travel due to job, wish to meet others for support.

A. Kinsey, P.O. Box 550, Roanoke, IN 46783

KIMBERLY ANN B. (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE

MWM hetero TG, 5'9", 40's, perfect size 12, passable. Kim very much loves to be dressed and enjoys nice feminine clothing. Also enjoys good friends. Have very supportive wife. Enjoy going out shopping, and to plays, and the theater as Kim. Would like to hear from others across the country. May be slow answering, but will answer all.

Kimberly B. (IN-1032)

Lindsey S. IN-2358

LINDSEY S. (C IN) (#55)

53, 5'8", 155. Loves playing theater organ, flower arranging, dining out, running 25 miles a week to keep slim, reading, & travel. Married to loving wife, 3 sons, 2 grandchildren, 2 1/2 years to go til retirement, then the fun begins!

Lindsey S. (IN-2358)

VANESSA K. WILL (IN) (#54)

Member: SLGF, Double Image

CD, 5'9", slender, blue eyes, blond, passable in public, very discreet & expect same. Interests: Lingerie, corsetry, high heels, enjoy role playing & shopping with girlfriend. S IN, S IL, & W KY, can travel, looking for someone to share experiences with. Also interested in meeting real women interested in CD's.

Vanessa W. (IN-1166)

BARBARA ELLEN BERTRAND (S IN) (#54)

Transsexual, beginning on path to becoming a woman. 5'3", 135, brown hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys Roman and Greek art and archaeology, ancient civilizations, science fiction.

Barbara B. (IN-2324)

Vickie IN-2647

VICKIE (C IN) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess, Crossroads, IXE

MWM, a young 47, 6', size 18-20. I have an understanding wife, dress occasionally at home, but mostly on trips. I am recently out of the closet, and want to aid others in that quest. I am active in the Catholic Church, enjoy cooking, dancing, fine wines, and exercise. I will do my best to answer all letters.

Vickie (IN-2647)

JIM C. (W IN) (#55)

5'7", 140, small boned, 47. Raised as a girl for 7 years. Hair was curled almost nightly, given home permanents, slept in nightgowns.

Jim C. ((IN-2312)

ANNIE JOHNSON (C IN) (#55)

MWM, understanding wife, very young looking 40. Half in Half out of closet, been out dressed half a dozen times. Spent most of 2 days shopping in L.A. & loved it! I'm done fighting it, and am now trying to broaden my experiences in order to try to find a lifestyle with which I can be contented. I have a science education and work with computers, but also have strong interests in history, philosophy, religion, myth, and just about anything else you can think of. Would like to hear from and perhaps meet others with similar interests and concerns.

KAREN (C IN) (#57)

Member: IXE

SWM, 41, 6', 168, professional, attractive, personable, and fun. Interests include reading, especially history; languages - fluent in four; and of course, perfecting my femininity. I'm trying to integrate Karen into a very busy professional life. Looking for friends in the community for socialization, help, and support. I'm especially interested in meeting more women accepting of my qualities and quirks. I'm not very good at this, and could really use some help.

Karen (IN-0807)

BETTY ANN C. (IN) (#55)

SWM CD, 5'8", 160, 37. Enjoys photography, hiking, the outdoors, and esoteric studies. "Looking for friends, organizations, and correspondents in the Fort Wayne area."

Betty Ann C. (IN-2537)

KATHY ANN (W IN) (#56)

Member: IXE

Nice-looking TV. 6', size 18, dark-haired lady from the Terre Haute area. I would enjoy meeting other TV's, and dating men who would enjoy going out with a sexy lady. I like sitting and chatting about the wonderful TV lifestyle. I also like pleasing my dates.

Kathy Ann, (IN-2651)

RIKKI B. (C IN) (#55)

Bi TV/TS, 34. I'm very shy and sensitive, just now trying to develop my femininity. I love music of all kinds, and quiet romantic evenings. I need to find a special person to share my life with.

Rikki B., P.O. Box 1962, Anderson, IN 46014 (IN-2578)

MICHIGAN (480- 499-)

Milesa P. MI-0976

MILESA PHAR (MI) (#56)

Member: Crossroads, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

Past President (Crossroads), Editor (Crossroads Chatter), and Board member (Crossroads). Married TV. Enjoys photography, writing. Lecturing at medical schools and universities on cross-dressing. Have produced audio tapes on wives & TV's. Crossroads outreach chairperson.

Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135 (MI-0976)

TERRI SUZANNE SCOTT (MI) (#54)

Member: Crossroads

Participant: 'Be All'

Personable lady who enjoys life and grows more confident in her feminine being every day. Life's goal is to become an active member of society as a woman. Actively working towards that goal. Interested in correspondence only with other women who have accepted themselves and are working towards similar goals.

Terri Suzanne Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012

DENISE Mc. (MI) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'11", 185, 37. Trying to understand my feminine side, need

understanding sister to help me. Love to dress up but no one to share with.

Denise M. (MI-2171)

Marcia T. MI-1871

MARCIA ANN T. (E MI) (#56)

Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads

Tri-City area very experienced TV, 5'10", 165, have passed in public for 25 years. Love shopping and dining en femme. would love to share experiences with other sisters. Love to correspond,and guarantee immediate reply to any who write. Happy to advise any who need help.

Marcia Ann T. (MI-1871)

JAMIE C. (W MI) (#55)

Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads, IME

White, married, 35. Would like to hear from others in the Battle Creek MI area.

Jamie C. (MI-2410)

DIANA K. REED (E MI) (#55)

MWM hetero CD, 5'8", 150, 54. Enjoys boating, golf, travel, & partying. Enjoys nylons, heels, slips, etc. Occasional CD, would like to dress up more often, possibly away from home. Wife lukewarm to CDing, but tolerable. Looking forward to involvement with support group. Would correspond with hetero CD's in Midwest.

Diana K. Reed, P.O. Box 463025, Mt Clemens, MI 48046 (MI-2419)

DENISE BEACH (C MI) (#56)

TS, 5'8", blond hair, blue eyes, 41, single. Enjoys movies, shopping, & warm conversation. "I would like to correspond with TV/TS in Michigan area. I am very friendly and shy, but I have significant emotional problems."

Denise Beach, 3206 Melody Lane, #43, Lansing, MI 48912

ROBERT (SE MI) (#57)

Single male, 5'8", 170, 28, educated. Would like to correspond/meet an ultra-feminine, pre or post-op TS. I appreciate a creative mind as much as an attractive face and figure. Enjoy travel, tennis, skiing, movies, fine food, and stimulating conversation.

Robert (MI-2002)

Jennifer N. MI-1165

JENNIFER ANN NELSON (SE MI) (#57)

Member: Crossroads

5'11", 160, size 14, with brown hair and blue eyes. I cherish the time I can spend as Jennifer, and have grown comfortable and confident in public as a woman. I am just getting to know myself, and understand my feelings as a woman. My passion for clothes includes short skirts, silk dressing, and heels. I love to meet my sisters, and to be escorted on my travels. I will respond to your letters as best I can.

Jennifer N. P.O. Box 431726, Pontiac, Michigan 48343 (MI-1165)

RANDI (SE MI) (#56)

Member: Crossroads

Bi WM, 5'9", 170, brown hair/eyes. TV since age ten. Wife supports fully. Would like to hear from others in my area.

Randi, P.O. Box 46100, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046 (MI-2581)

RENEE (SW MI) (#56)

41, hetero, white, 5'8", 170. Hormones 2 years. Brown hair/blue eyes. Married to supportive wife, 2 children. I've been dressing for over thirty years. I've been out dressed on several occasions with my wife, but not nearly enough to satisfy my needs. Would like to meet with other married couples for correspondence, possible meeting.

Renee (MI-2575)

MARSHA (SE MI) (#57)

MWM, hetero CD, 6'2", 218, 42, frosted or red hair, triple pierced ears. Enjoy golf, boating, travel, and having a good time. Love dressing and going out. Passions are pierced earrings, shoes, and good looking clothes in spite of size. Have just started going out and charting new waters. Would like to hear from other sisters, especially those in the MI area, and meet and go out if interested.

Marsha (MI-2719)

R. LYNNE (S MI) (#56)

Hispanic, 5'5", 135, 29. Enjoys cycling, movies, music, dancing, concerts, cards, gambling. I would like to meet a TV/TG/TS from the Lansing area for support and friendship.

Lynne, P.O. Box 27514, Lansing MI 48909 (MI-2745)

IOWA (500- 528-)

Janet B. IA-2091

JANET BAKER (IA) (#57)

WM, 39, 175, 5'11". Artist. Interests include ceramics, prints, painting, gardening, animals, archeology, erotica, metal and wood working. Would like to meet new friends with similar interests.

D.R., P.O. Box 334, Ankewy, IA 50021

Christina B. IA-1253

CHRISTINA MARIE BOUCHIER (IA) (#55)

Member: CLCC, CGS

Attendee: "Be All" '88, '89

TS, 5'11", 43, brown hair, blue eyes. Receiving hormones and electrolysis; attend Minnesota Gender Program. Accepted as Christina by siblings, mother, and close friends. Will start fulltime life as a woman in early 1990. Absolutely love dancing, writing, socializing, sharing and expressing my pure feminine nature. Interested in meeting TS sisters and fun, confident guys who love to dance!

Christina B. (IA-1253)

WISCONSIN (530- 548-)

JANET LYNN H. (WI) (#54)

SWM, 33, professional person. Have been crossdressing for as long as I can remember. I have a partial wardrobe. Am into traveling and photography. Would love to spend some time with another sister working on makeup and style. Am not passable at this time but am trying very hard.

Janet H. (WI-2141)

Linda A. WI-0529

LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) (#55)

TS, 5'7", 165-175, blue eyes, brown hair or whatever color wig I decide to wear. Born August 1949. Interests: All things feminine, history of WW2, war gaming, and photography. "I wish to correspond with any one who wish to write to me, and to contact those to whom I have written to in the past. I wish correspondence, no personal meetings. I do answer all."

Linda Lee Athie, Box 15784, Milwaukee, WI 53215

MARTHA M. (NE WI) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: 'Be All'

TV, 5'6", 38, 155. Enjoys crossdressing on limited basis. Have only been "out" a few times. Have wife who finds my "hobby" difficult to come to terms with. Enjoy golf, woodworking, jogging, classical music, camping, gardening, & my kids. Still new to the subculture with much to learn.

Martha M. (WI-1459)

MONICA MARTIN (SE WI) (#56)

White, married "lingerie lover", mid-fifties, looking for pen-sisters, and/or meeting, to share our femme side together. My first and main love is lingerie. I have been crossdressing since I was 12 years old - with each year that goes by, I enjoy myself more and more. I have lots to share with you, so please write soon. Please send pictures if possible.

PAULA M. (W WI) (#57)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess National, Chi chapter (Chicago)

Participant: 'Be All', Holiday En Femme

MWM, CD, 74, 5'5", 160. Retired university professor. Artist (painter), musician; terminal and advanced degrees in both. Interests include visual arts, classical music and jazz, fine food and wine, philosophy, astronomy, photography, creative writing. Blessed with happy marriage to fully accepting, wonderfully supportive wife. We travel everywhere around the country as two women. No problems - we love it! Correspondence invited.

Paula M. (WI-2036)

MINNESOTA (550- 567-)

Vanessa S. MN-1168

VANESSA S. (MN) (#57)

5'11", 160, brown hair & eyes, 40, size 16, passable, hetero CD. I love to shop for anything feminine and enjoy the classic stylish look. I'm happily married to a beautiful, supportive, accepting wife. I'm presently finishing my degree in counseling, and intend to work exclusively with gender issues. My wife and I are devout Christians, and are willing to help other couples if we can. I love my femininity and have found that I became a much happier, more complete person upon allowing my femme self to emerge.

Vanessa S., Box 11771, St. Paul, MN 55111-0771 (MN-1168)

Wendy S. MN-2068

WENDY St. CROIX (MN) (#54)

Bi TV, 38, 5'9", 145. I am looking for a special person who is honest, loving, and tender to share our special feelings. I will write to everyone who sends an honest letter and photo. I could also use some help with makeup and dressing. I travel a little, so please write from anywhere.

Wendy St. Croix, P.O. Box 1161, St Paul, MN 55101

REGINA (MN) (#57)

White gender dysphoric, 5'8", 150, 43, celibate by choice and convictions. Interests include libertarian politics, music (classical vocal - haunting ballads), history, Victoriana, reading writing, contemplative spirituality. I am a law school graduate, but have many non-legal interests. I would just like to find a few sincere friends if any exist out there. Thanks.

Regina (MN-0383)

KATHERINE H. (MN) (#56)

Member: CLCC, MFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair

DWM TV with TS tendencies, mid 30's, strawberry blonde, live as woman part time. Enjoy music, movies, theater, cooking, tennis, golf, decorating. I love to make time in my busy life to relax and let my feminine side take over. I would love to make more friends in the TV/TS community and in the "outside" world as Kathy. I go out occasionally and pass. Would love to hear from you.

Katherine H. (MN-1994)

WENDY P. (MN) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 175, 26, brown hair & eyes. Interested in meeting others who are into CD & TV lifestyles. I would like to meet with those who are passable and can help me to be passable also. I love high heels, garters, and the soft feel of silk and lace. I would like to join a Twin Cities area club. Please write; will answer all.

W. Peterson, Box 617, Stillwater, MN 55082

Kristen S. MN-2275

KRISTEN SMITH (MN) (#54)

SW hetero CD, 42, 6'2", 175. Professional. Non-smoker and drug free. Enjoys dressing up as often as possible. Have not gone out. Other interests include computers, electronics, inventing, working on cars, housework, cooking, sewing, working on my feminine self and just an all around handy person. Very interested in sharing thoughts and general conversation involving our feminine self with others. "Have keyboard - will type." Will remain very confidential and expect the same.

Kristen S. (MN-2275)

STEPHANIE J. (MN) (#56)

DWM Bi-TV, gentle and caring. Enjoys dressing, reading, outdoor activities. "I love being a TV, and am in general a happy and secure individual. Am very interested in meeting and corresponding with TV's, TS's, and interested others for personal and social relationships. I have been dressing for over 20 years and especially love petticoats and full skirts. Discretion assured. Will answer all promptly. Photo & phone if possible.

A. Jacobs, 2200 West 66th St #156, Richfield, MN 55423 (MN-2385)

Melissa J. MN-2264

MELISSA SUE J. (NW MN) (#55)

Member: CLCC

Pre-op TS, 36, 6', 155. I have attained my feminine self, on hormones, have had electrolysis. I enjoy travel, modeling, word processors, entertaining, photography, music, dancing, and social evenings of wining and dining with other TV's and TS's that are experienced in feminine persuasions. Will also give advice to those just starting. Men and women please write also. Need new social friends, and will be pen pals with those that would like to communicate.

Melissa J. (MN-2264)

Ramona M. MN-0849

RAMONA (E MN) (#57)

Member: CLCC/IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Shangri-La, Be All, Miss Fantasia Fair

CD/TG, 50's. I like fashion, cooking, being with good friends. Enjoy dining out, travelling, attending functions with my sisters.

Ramona (MN-0849)

BARBARA JANE A. (SE MN) (#55)

Participant: HBIGDA Convention

Middle-aged male gender dysphoric who cross-dresses in private. Seeks friendship with a feminine M-F TS. You may call me between 7 a.m. & 7 p.m. at (612) 870-8234.

Barbara A. (MN-2479)

Patti F. MN-0735

PATTI F. (E MN) (#55)

Participant: Dream '78

5'10", 185, 43, divorced, hetero, Vietnam veteran. Interests include modeling school, garage sales, reading, church activities, Emotions Anonymous. I live in the Twin cities, am out of closet. Attend church and Emotions Anonymous as "St. Paul Patti". I am an honest person who accepts my femininity, and am accepted by real people in the real world. I speak to groups on the subject of crossdressing.

Patti F. (MN-0735)

JUDY KASSE (SE MN) (#57)

Married, hetero male. 260, 5'11", 52, closet CD. Likes photography, amateur radio. I don't pass, but feel good when dressed. Will answer all correspondence.

Judy Kasse, P.O. Box 16143, St. Paul, MN 55116

JENNIFER and ARTEMIS (S MN) (#57)

Monogamous TG/TS couple, early thirties. Jenny's a bio-male living as her wondrous, womanly self. Art's a bio-female shifting out of gender ambivalence/chameleonhood toward liberated masculinity. Jenny's interests: wicca, neo-paganism, shamanism, re-embracing her inner child. Art's interests: TG/TS advocacy and activism, literary expression of gender non-conformity and exploration. We'd both like to hear from other "out" TG/TS's in the midst of child-raising. Love to all!

Art and Jenny (MN-2738)

SOUTH DAKOTA (570- 577-)

NORTH DAKOTA (580- 588-)

MONTANA (590- 599-)

Tammy MT-2641

TAMMY (MT) (#57)

Member: Life, IFGE

MWM, 150, 5'7", size 16. Look at the picture and decide how old I look. Discretion required and guaranteed. I know I'm not the only TV in Montana, but it's redneck country - I'm very much in the closet and will stay that way. I'd like to dress up, and be treated very tenderly, as if I were a lady, especially by a GG playing role reversal. Wife barely tolerates my CDing, and is becoming more distant. I could develop a private retreat for CD's with financial help - within commuting distance of Helena, MT.

Tammy (MT-2641)

Mishell L. MT-2704

MISHELL LYNN WOODRING (NE MT) (#56)

6'1", 145, well-educated, blue eyes, blonde hair TS (male to female). Totally blind. Interests include sound engineering and recording (12 years experience), theater and acting, hearing from other TS's (cassette tape, please). Would like to start a cassette publishing company. I am finding it upsetting that materials such as Tapestry, etc. are not available on cassette tape for blind people. It is not easy to find people open-minded enough to read these materials aloud for someone like me.

Mishell W. (MT-2704)

ILLINOIS (600- 629-)

Eve B. IL-0529

EVE B. (IL) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Educational Resources Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, Outreach, CGS

Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Be All', 'Coming Together'

Awards: Miss DREAM, FF Miss Congeniality, FF Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair

Eve is an elegant fun-loving girl who 'exists' 2-3 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling the Mid-West and West. Does many presentations with Naomi O. (IL) before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle. Has appeared on television in Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis. Eve plays golf and tennis.

Eve B. (IL-0523)

Naomi O. IL-0257

NAOMI O. (IL) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Legal & By-Laws Committee

Member: Chi Chapter

Participant: Fantasia Fair, "Be All", 'Coming Together'

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, Miss Congeniality

A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Am personable and understanding. Enjoy travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or Brussels sprouts), fashion and jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in midwest crossdressing activities; have appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis.

Naomi O., Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

Barbara D. IL-1980

BARBARA DIANE B. (IL) (#54)

Member: Chi Chapter

Participant: Holiday En Femme

Hetero TV, 28, 5'10", 143, contemporary woman of the '90s. Barbara is a very caring, wonderful person. Enjoys photography, fishing, and dancing. Will try and answer all who write.

B.D. Beers, P.O. Box 2002, Des Plaines, IL 60017

Karen R. IL-1514

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) (#55)

Member: Chi Chapter

Participant: Holiday En Femme

A couple of years older and wiser. Feeling good about who I am. I still believe that being Karen is still what it's all about - now more than ever. I love to help my sisters. I've heard from so many. Hope to hear from you - yes you! I wouldn't mind letters from real girls and TS's too!

Karen R. (IL-1514)

Patrika W. IL-2166

PATRIKA W. (IL) (#54)

SWM, 6'3". Interests: Sports, music - having fun with my fem self - sometimes dressing sexy, and other times passing as a grandma. Love to exchange letters and photos with other TV's who want a nutty girlfriend.

Patrika W. (IL-2166)

Geri W. IL-1400

GERI WATERS (IL) (#55)

Member: SLGF

6', 190 (and losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, Leo, good natured. Enjoys art, writing, cars, good friends. Looking for sisters & friends in the St. Louis area to share ideas and get-togethers. Pass well in public and enjoy going out. I'm also a columnist for a national publication.

Geri Waters, 5 Chambers Blvd, Belleville, IL 62221

SUSAN MACDONALD (IL) (#54)

Pre-op M-F TS, 43, 6'2", 150, on hormones 8 months. "I would like to hear from other TS's (pre- and post-op) who share my interest in the outdoors, cats, classical music (renaissance & baroque), and cool jazz.

Susan MacDonald (IL-1463)

TERESA BEATRICE K. (IL) (#57)

6'+, late 30's, SWM, 300 +. Interested in computer systems, chess, AD&D, science fiction, space development. I began my journey into transvestism in order to discover why someone would want to change his/her gender and/or sex. While I am beginning to understand why, I am uncertain as to whether or not I have the need for cross-genderization.

Teresa K. (IL-1969)

Cindy H. IL-1757

CINDY SUE H. (IL) (#55)
Member: Chicago Gender Society, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
MWM, 41, 6', married to understanding & loving wife. Attractive, fun loving, outgoing.
Cindy H. (IL-1757)

Jan N. IL-2737

JAN NEVILLE (N IL) (#57)
Single, white, TV, 5'11", 165, early 30's, blonde hair, brown eyes. Friendly, passable, and totally into all aspects of femininity. I love music and art, not macho activities. My happiest day was when I realized that I could no longer resist my TV yearnings and simply gave in and started dressing. I'm interested in meeting TV's with similar interests as well as suitable men interested in dating.
Jan Neville, P.O. Box 8437, Northfield, IL 60093 (IL-2737)

RENAE (NE IL) (#57)
6'2", 250. Interests include sailing, carpentry, trains. A bit shy - would like to join a group, or just get together with a few friends to learn more about myself. Will answer all who write.
Renae (IL-1931)

PATRICIA CHAPMAN (N IL) (#55)
Member: CIGA, CGS
I am a 43 yr old M-F TS on hormones, with a physical handicap (amputee). Living as a female. Would like to meet and correspond with other pre-op or post-op TS's. Am planning to have SRS in the Spring or early Summer.
Patricia C. (IL-1560)

STEPHANIE G. (C IL) (#55)
SWM TV, 5'9", 135, 31, brown hair, size 10-12. Enjoys cross-dressing, photography, shopping, being a woman, sci-fi books, girl talk. "I'm just coming out of the closet & can use all the help I can get. Hope to one day live full time as a woman. Please be discrete. Please write.
Stephanie G. (IL-2411)

JILL H. (N IL) (#56)
Member: CIGA
Mid 40's, lonely, hetero, drug free, no alcohol, quit smoking. Enjoys working on cars, working outside, reading, writing letters, camping, long walks, cross-dressing. "Looking for correspondence with TV's & TS's. Possible friendship, dressing sessions. Could you be my teacher in the finer art of dressing and makeup. Travel limited to north central Illinois area.
Jill H. (IL-2470)

KIM NICOLE (N IL) (#55)
Tall, thin, feminine body features, intelligent, witty, articulate, & fun loving. Enjoys arts, theater, movies, outdoor recreation (summer preferred), travel, and, oh yes...shopping! Professional television director/cinematography. Have been "cross-dressing" in public since 14 years old (or over half my life).
Kim N. (IL-2494)

SUE PASHEN (NE IL) (#57)
Member: IFGE
38, 5'10", 150, shy. Likes taking walks, dining out, movies, reading, art, science, B/D. SWM-F TS, no drugs, smoking, drinking; clean, discreet. Have always liked women, even my feminine side. Very lonely. Looking for GG for serious relationship. If a girl exists out there who can accept a TS with very little experience, and can teach Sue how to live a real life, even if just at home (in Chicago suburbs), please get in touch.
Sue P. (IL-2751)

MISSOURI (630- 658-)

Bernice M. MO-2018

BERNICE M. (MO) (#57)
Member: Crossdressers International - Tulsa OK
Single, 5'9", brown eyes, long curly brown hair, 130; pre-op TS, 40ish. I would like to correspond with others of like interest, and meet those in my area (SW MO and/or Tulsa OK).
Bernice M. (MO-2018)

Angela J. MO-1162

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) (#57)
Member: St Louis Gender Foundation (formerly the St Louis Gateway Femmes) Single, black, male TV, 5'11", 170, tall, slim, fun to be with. My interests are: Photography, travel, dressing when I can; I enjoy socializing, going out, and dancing. I would like to meet and/or correspond with other TV's, TS's and women who understand. Help me to take my second self to a new level of awareness. I value new friendships and relationships.
Angela J., P.O. Box 23323, St. Louis, MO 63156 (MO-1162)

Sandra U. MO-2243

SANDRA ANN U. (SW MO) (#54)
Member: Delta Omega, Boulton & Park, SLGF
Attractive (so says spouse), 60+ lady who enjoys her cross-dressing and feminine side. Size 20. "Enjoy camping and traveling in our RV. Enjoy trout fishing in the Ozarks. Love to cook & do house work. Am retired as Safety Officer of large hospital. Now living in the Ozarks, and enjoying every minute. Love all things feminine, especially lingerie. Have beautiful collection of over 200 panties. Send me a panty, and I will send you one of equal or greater value (birthdays, etc.). I promise to answer all letters.
Sandra Ann U. (MO-2243)

Barbara B. MO-0158

BARBARA B. (MO) (#56)
Member: Tiffany
DWM, 50, 5'10", 160, hetero. Interests include music, dancing, fashion. Participant in many Poconos weekends. Although a lifelong crossdresser, and one who has made peace with and accepted my feelings years ago, I have had to repress them. Thankfully, that time has passed, and now I look forward to meeting many new friends. I value honesty, trustworthiness, and discretion. Have met a wonderful, supportive woman. Will answer all.
Barbara B. (MO-0258)

ALISON POWELL (C MO) (#56)
Single, hetero TV, 40, 5'8", 135. Love music, theater, movies, nature, hiking, traveling, reading, gardening, kids, building, etc. Father of three. Other interests include literature, psychology, history, anthropology, writing, politics, environmental concerns, current events, women's issues and perspectives. Just coming out to friends this year. Have been a CD for 30+ years, finally accepting myself, loving it socially. Am philosophically/literary inclined (college grad) with experience in therapy/counselling, very much interested in gender-related issues. Very outgoing, talkative (good listener, too), and good correspondent. Wear dresses most of the time at home/with friends. Still learning the feminine arts. Would love to meet M-F TS's or TV's for friendship.
Alison P. (MO-2766)

KANSAS (660- 679-)

JAN G. (KS) (#54)
Semi-passable on a dark night. Would enjoy corresponding with sisters that have like interests.
J. Gladfelter, P.O. Box 47353, Wichita, KS 67201

Becky C. KS-1346

BECKY GAIL C. (KS) (#54)
Member: Gemini II Crossdresser's Club
5'6, 167, 38C-33-36, 40-ish. Artist, writer, sculptor, love being a "Ms". Would like to meet KC area girls to share fantasy, secrets, and girl talk. SASE and picture, please?
Becky Ann, c/o Gemini II, 418 Linn St., Leavenworth, KS 66048

Nancy C. KS-2189

NANCY C. (KS) (#54)
Member: Kansas City CAF, SLGF
Participant: Texas T-Party, Fantasia Fair, 'Coming Together', 'Be All'
"I have been crossdressing for years and enjoy working with and for members of our community. I travel frequently and widely, enjoy just about everything, and do well for myself, both in my male and my female role. Interests include reading, history, movies, current events, and, of course, fashion and beauty. (I'm a sucker for the antebellum stuff.)"
Nancy (KS-2189)

Evelyn B. KS-0400

EVELYN B. (E KS) (#56)
Member: CLCC, CAF
Tall, sensitive and caring TS, passable and really into improving my feminine experiences. Serious and advanced crossdresser. "Enjoy going out as much as possible, traveling to new parts of the country and broadening my feminine mind. Interested in meeting other serious crossdressers. Not into long correspondence but can help with resources in the Kansas City area."
Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

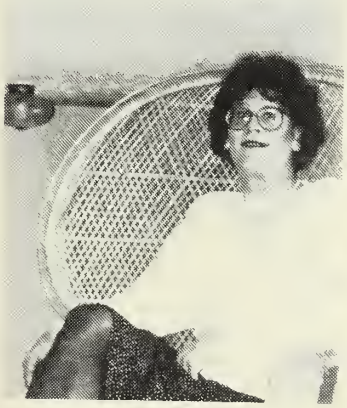
Kelly S. KS-2649

KELLY S. (KS) (#57)
Married CD, mid-30's, 5'9", 150, size 14, attractive, passable. Loves going out and enjoys being treated as a lady. Would like to hear from sincere sisters with like interests to exchange experiences, feelings, and photos. Love all things feminine.
Kelly S. (KS-2649)

Marie B. KS-1549

MARIE BENSON (KS) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess, CAF
Participant: KC Fall Harvest W/E
MWM, hetero TV, masters degree, 6'1", 165, 39, blue eyes, light brown hair. Enjoys guitar, photography, computers. Active in new Kansas City CAF (Crossdressers and Friends) group. Have a loving and supportive wife. Enjoy getting out with the group.
Marie Benson, P.O. Box 7744, Overland Park, KS 66207 (KS-1549)

NEBRASKA (680- 693-)



Laura W. NE-2404

LAURA W. (NE) (#54)
SWM TV, 6', 32, has extensive wardrobe. Passable but needs help in coming out. "Plan on going to my first convention "Be All" in June. Would like to correspond with sincere and discreet person going to same event. Am very interested in group support."
Laura W. (NE-2404)

JONI P. (E NE) (#56)
MWM TV, 6', 180, sensitive, caring, discreet. Interests: Anything outdoors, bowling, racquetball, dancing, a good bottle of red wine. "My greatest desire is to perfect my femininity. I would love to correspond and possibly meet with passable TV or TS in E. Nebraska or W. Iowa. I need a friend to help me become a complete woman and to share and discuss this beautiful world. Please write."
Joni P. (NE-2437)

Melisa (NE-2742

MELISA JEAN (NE) (#55)
DWM, 45, 6'2", 190, life-long TV, easy going and personable. I like myself and enjoy life. I like everything feminine, people, parties, travel, entertaining, photography, and trying anything new. I strive for Melisa's perfection, but need a woman to critique her. I'm ready to step out into the world, and would like to make friends with women, couples, TS's and other perfectionist TV's for outings and socializing.
Melisa Jean, (NE-2742)

LOUISIANA (700- 714-)

Lee M. LA-1618

LEE MYMICK (LA) (#56)
Member: Tri Delta Chi
Participant: 'Coming Together', 'Fantasia Fair', 'Texas T Party', Fantasy Adventure W/E
Married WM, 5'10", 170. Ring leader of Tri Delta Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess in New Orleans. Would like to hear from more cross-dressers in the surrounding area.
Lee M., c/o Tri Delta Chi, P.O. Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300 (LA-1618)

Lisa H. LA-1717

LISA HART (LA) (#56)

SWM TV, 36, slim athletic build. Attractive, successful professional. "I cross-dress only occasionally, but love to go out when I do. would like to meet an attractive female who will accept my infrequent need to relax from the self-imposed pressures of my 'type A' existence in the guise of a carefree, affable young woman. I'd also like to correspond and exchange photos with potential TV/TS friends."

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

Vicki D. LA-2409

VICKI DIXON (LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Participant: 'Fantasy Adventure', Texas 'T' Party

MWM, 5'8", 145, 40-ish, size 10, college educated, sensitive, very passable. Enjoys shopping with wife, and dressing with style and class. Enjoys motorcycles and boating. "I'm happily married to a beautiful and supportive wife. My wife and I are devout Christians. I know who I am and have accepted it. Will answer all mail as quickly as possible.

Vicki Dixon, P.O. Box 77905, Baton Rouge, LA 70879 (LA-2409)

KAREN SCOTT (LA) (#54)

WM, 5'10", 170. Retired widower with master's degree. Former coach, captain USAF, stockbroker, 15 years in merchant marine. Have dressed "in the closet" since teens; wife was very understanding. First time in public was at a Tri-Delta-Chi meeting. Would value friendship with any TV or TS.

Karen Scott (LA-2139)

TRACY (LA) (#54)

MWM TV, 5'11", 190, 42. Educated; wife does not understand. Enjoy all things feminine. Would like to correspond or meet with sisters to explore the range of feelings unique to special people like us.

Tracy (LA-2147)

Michelle B. LA-2373

MICHELLE BECKER (LA) (#55)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Lifelong TV, 5'7", 108, 40. Enjoys fashions, make-up, pretty shoes and clothes. "I have been living in the closet until I got involved with Tri Delta. I love dressing and being accepted for what I am. Would love to correspond with passable TV/TS for friendship, meetings and photo exchange, especially in the New Orleans area."

Michelle Becker, P.O. Box 963, Gramercy, LA 70052 (LA-2373)

DIANE ELAINE (SE LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

DWM, 39, 6', 160, emerging CD, understanding SO. Interests include running, golf, chess, computers, and life in general. Life-long female yearnings. I would like to write a book someday. Please write and tell me your story. I promise to reply, and give you any moral support you need.

Diane Elaine (LA-2467)

STEPHANIE S. (LA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

Very tall, good personality, good listener, open minded and easy going. Enjoys shopping, music, travel, video/stereo equipment, fine lingerie. "I've been a TV for over 10 years and I'm always seeking the methods to refine and more fully enjoy the realm of femininity. I am interested in communicating with anyone 20-40 that has similar interests. Discretion assured, sincere and not pushy. All listing inquiries answered with adequate, honorable descriptions.

Stephanie S. (LA-2545)

JERRI N. (NW LA) (#55)

Member: Beta Chi

Participant: Texas T-Party

6'1", 230, 47. "Like sports, travel a lot throughout the South, and would like contacts in the South and Southwest especially."

Jerri N., P.O. Box 38048, Shreveport, LA 71133-8048

ARKANSAS (716- 729-)

Stephanie F. AR-1841

STEPHENIE RENEE' (AR) (#57)

MWM, 5'8", 145, 37, brown hair/eyes. Interested in corresponding and helping others, discussing life in general, being Stephenie. Married to a very supportive, helpful, and understanding wife. She has brought out and helped develop Stephenie into The Total Girl. Pass fairly well when out, yet always open to improvement.

S. R. Fowler, P.O. Box 1835, Springdale, AR 72765 (AR-1841)

TRACEY JOANNA (C AR) (#56)

TV, 6', 185, 29, reddish-blond hair, blue eyes. I love dressing feminine whenever possible. My wife understands, but is non-supportive. In the process of coming out of the closet, and considering hormones. Enjoy shopping and making new friends. Would like to join or help start a CD,TV,TS support group in central Arkansas. Please drop me a line. Will answer all letters. T.J. Rhodes (AR-2682)

RANDI S. (AR) (#55)

Member: CDI

SWM, Bi-, 5'11", 155. Lifelong CD, brown hair & blue eyes. I wish to contact sincere femmes, & boys who would rather be girls. Enjoy shopping, quiet evenings, & girl talk. Interested in childhood dressing experiences & and freelance writer.

Randi S. (AR-1708)

Randi S. AR-1708

Jana AR-2557

JANA (S AR) (#56)

Member: Beta Chi

MWM, 50ish, 5'8", 165. Enjoy golf, photography, video, flying, travel. Can we talk? Spouse knows, helps, but not that supportive. Into full dressing six years. Have made guarded public appearances. Love being dressed, feeling feminine. Love it all, from 38-C's to 4" heels. Love to correspond with sisters to share experiences, desires, fantasies, photos, and much much more.

Jana (AR-2557)

OKLAHOMA (730- 749-)

GINA FRANCAIS (OK) (#54)

SWM CD, 35, 6', 148, friendly but shy. Would like to start friendship with other TV/TS. Enjoy listening to music, riding bikes. Need advice, will correspond. Wish to join organization in Oklahoma.

G. Loveland, P.O. Box 702044, Tulsa, OK 74170-2044

Jerri S. OK-1830

JERRI ELIZABETH S. (OK) (#56)

SWM TV, 6'1", 210, 37 years old - and all as a TV. Enjoys history, non-fiction, and sci-fi. Enjoys music, dining out, dancing, and just being the woman that I am inside and out. Looking for other TV/TS's and anyone who would like to share their good times and bad times in the world we live in. I just want to help others to grow and understand who we are and will become in the future.

Jerri S. (OK-1830)

RAINA PEARSON (C OK) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

42 year-old government employee, had the desire to dress most of life from about age 10. Been out of closet about 3 years, married to a somewhat supportive wife. Will reply to all letters received.

Raina Pearson, Box 764, Harrah, OK 73045

Daphne P. OK-2367

DAPHNE PRESCOTT (NE OK) (#56)

Member: CDI Tulsa

TV with TS tendencies. 5'7", 130, blue eyes, slender and fairly passable. Enjoys music, writing, fashion, & history. Enjoys feminine lifestyle, and going out dressed. "I have been a crossdresser since age four and am always looking for ways to improve my feminine image. Would enjoy hearing from anyone and will answer all letters."

Daphne P. (OK-2367)

TEXAS (750- 799-)

Janice R. TX-0567

JANICE HILARY RUPARD (S TX) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)

Member: Boulton & Park (co-founder)

Participant: Texas T-Party (co-founder), 'Coming Together', Fantastic Adventure, '90 In 90'

MWM TG, 5'9", 160, size 18, 60's going on 40. Sensitive, with a gentle, caring nature. Interests: Classical music, playing 'big band' and jazz (alto and bari sax), photography and everything feminine. "Since I retired, living alone, I've worked very hard developing my femininity. Now, Janice goes most everywhere and does everything. I shop, work, travel by air or by highway - you name it. I'm not the fastest respondent, but I always answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."

Janice Rupard, P.O. Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163 (TX-0567)

Jane Ellen F. TX-1250

JANE ELLEN FAIRFAX (E TX) (#57)

Attendee: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme, Texas T-Party

President, Tau Chi Chapter, '88 - '89, SEC Conference Interim Chairman, Tri-Ess Board of Directors, Coordinator, Holiday En Femme, Femme Mirror Editorial Staff.

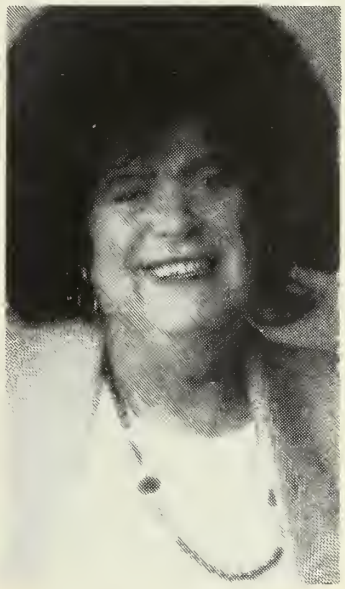
43, 6'2", 210, chestnut hair, green eyes, professional. Jane has been an active member of Tri-Ess for over five years. Jane's many interests include church, sports, music, bridge, medieval English history and Sherlock Holmes. Jane and Francis are the parents of two young sons who have known and loved "Aunt Jane" from birth. Jane most enjoys helping newly emerging crossdressers and feels a particular burden for their wives. As Interim Chairman, Jane's goal is to make Tri-Ess more responsive to the needs of all its members. She believes in strongly in working together with all cross-gendered persons for the happiness and well being of all. Jane's personal motto is, "She leads best who serves best"; that of Clan Fairfax, "I will accomplish while I live".

Jane Ellen (TX-1250)

MARY LEE (N TX) (#55)

5'10", 160. Size 14/16. Ex-military. Still earning a living although 60. Avid reader. Enjoys Crossdressing, things regarding gender assignment and adoption, feminism, and Christianity & its view of TV/TS. Will answer all letters but it sometimes takes me a long time.

Mary Lee, Box 532535, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053-2535



Rene` F. TX-0989

RENE' FENNER (W TX) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, GCTVC, CHIC, Boulton & Park

Participant: 'Coming Together', Texas 'T' Party, Fantastic Adventure W/E

MWM, 58, 6'1", 200. Go to restaurants and travel frequently as Rene'. Wife knows but is not approving. Always trying to improve feminine image. Also enjoy amateur radio and fishing. Will answer any correspondence received.

R. Fenner, 100H, 10502 Telephone Rd, Houston, TX 77075

BETTE LEE JOHNSON (N TX) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Programs Committee, 'Coming Together' Staff

Member: Dallas Chapter Tri-Ess

Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and very comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy the pleasures of being dressed and feeling feminine, and am told I pass well. Enjoy parties and socials with other TV ladies, and being in public en-femme (with discretion). Am now dedicated to serving 'our' world and in particular, helping those who are just starting to come out, and who may need help and advice."

Bette J. (TX-0543)

Marlena M. TX-2211

MARLINA DAWN MURPHY (S TX) (#54)

Member: Heart of Texas TV, Boulton & Park

MWM, 6'2, 195, 48 & dreaming of 21 again, size 16-18. Enjoy fishing, gourmet cooking, music, photography, and dressing. Have a very sensitive, supportive wife who helps me with every aspect of becoming the lady I want to be. Active in central and south Texas. Am interested in helping others, even it's a chat on the phone.

Marlina (TX-2211)

Ricki S. TX-2201

RIKKI SCOTT (S TX) (#54)

Late 40's, professional man, lifelong CD with tolerant spouse. Enjoy classical and jazz music, sailing, psychological and family history aspects of gender dysphoria. Doing research into gender dysphoria; would appreciate all contacts and info (especially family history) on your CD experience.

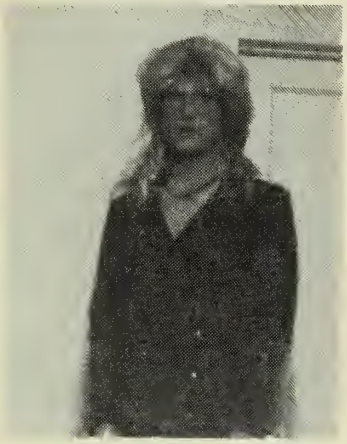
Occupant, Box 26031, Austin, TX 78755

Carol B. TX-2179

CAROL BAKER (N TX) (#54)

WM, 5'11", 145, ash blonde. Very outgoing; love being a "girl". Love to talk with others and help them to "come out" if a CD. If not a CD, I want to help them understand our ways.

Carol Baker, Box 1424, Waco, TX 76703 (TX-2179)



Janell S. TX-2173

JANELL S. (TX) (#54)

SWM TV/TS, 25, 5'9", 145. Size 11, feminine body, but still needs help to pass. Live alone and dress constantly when at home. Hope to start hormones soon. Will answer all.

Janell S. (TX-2173)

KIM KELLY (W TX) (#56)

Bi-TV, 5'8", 170. Enjoys spectator sports, TVism, travel. Lived in Puerto Rico 20 yrs. Can entertain or travel. Would like to join TV group in El Paso area. Will answer all letters ASAP.

C.R. Kelly, P.O. Box 12113, El Paso, TX 79913

SIGRID W. (TX) (#54)

Over 55, 5'10", brunette hair. Have attended events where both TVs and TSs were present. Will answer all intelligent letters from TSs and TVs on things of common interest.

Sigrid W. (TX-1248)

GINNY ALLISON (TX) (#54)

Member: Boulton & Park, Tri-Ess

Participant: Texas 'T' Party

Since moving to Texas I've enjoyed getting out of the closet and meeting more & more sisters. I would like to correspond & meet with more.

Ginny A. (TX-1223)

Melanie T. TX-1866

MELANIE THORNE (E TX) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Texas 'T' Party, Be All, Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Fantasy Adventure W/E

Young 51 yr old CD, married to ultimate supportive SO. Enjoy everything feminine, travel, & my beautiful wife! My wife, Dr. Peggy Rudd, and I enjoy meeting & talking with TV's, TS's, TG's, in all parts of the world. Peggy is a resource to other SO's.

Melanie Thorne, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, TX 77449

Lee J. TX-2316

LEE JENKINS (S TX) (#54)

Single TV, brown hair & eyes (hair color not constant). Enjoys music, writing, photography, sports, & making videos. "I love dressing fully & being feminine. I have never met another TV and I have never been out in public - I just need a little push from a sincere TV, TS, or understanding female."

Lee Jenkins, #290 P.O. Box 2013, Austin, TX 78768-2013 (TX-2316)

REHA ELLIS (S TX) (#54)

Member: Heart of Texas TV

Participant: Fantastic Adventure Houston

SWM life long CD, 5'11", 155, 30's. Enjoy going public, still learning. MS degree, loves to talk about feelings and the adventurous Reha. Enjoy correspondence with all TVs & TSs, and showing a girl around Austin. Please Write.

Reha E. (TX-2109)

MAXINE MCDONALD (N TX) (#55)

Member: Delta-Omega (Dallas)

Attendee: FanFair (11 yrs.)

Awards: Ms. Most Helpful, Outreach Award

Am into pipe organs, broadcasting, video production, streetcars, computers. I write letters to legislators and generally lobby for the interests of our community.

Occupant, Box 2171, Dallas, TX 75231

MARY B. (TX) (#54)

MWM brunette, 5'10", mid-30s, size 12. Married, semi-passable. Hobbies include computers, painting, and kayacking. Enjoy all things feminine - hose, lingerie, skirts, and heels. Still shy and learning. Would be happy to correspond with anyone TV or TS.

Mary B. (TX-2194)

Heather W. TX-2384

HEATHER MICHELLE WILSON (N TX) (#55)

Member: Delta Omega

Single CD, 33, 6', 28" waist, enjoys sailing, aerobics and shopping. One of numerous "Michelles" who attended Texas T-Party, and added new name. Seek correspondence with other hetero CD's searching for a wife. Heather's goal is to be truly happy with herself, and would also like to attend a major Dallas social event as Heather. Favorite looks: Classy, career.

H.M. Wilson, Box 550802, Dallas, TX 75355 (TX-2384)

CASEY COLE (S TX) (#56)

Member: HTTV, Boulton & Park

hetero TV, 39, 5'11". "Enjoy music, building my own house, outdoor activities. Active in several clubs. Interested in visiting other TV's/clubs while traveling."

Casey C. (TX-1907)

JAYE R. (E TX) (#55)

Member: Tau Chi, Crossroads

Awards: Tau Chi 'Helping Professional of the Year' 1988

59 year old hetero CD, author, pilot, motorcyclist, Mackintosh computer consultant, retired military, retired psychologist, divorced. Copy editor "Femme Mirror".

Jaye R. (TX-2382)

Donna W. TX 2476

DONNA WHITE (N TX) (#56)

Extremely sweet, effeminate TV, 5'9", 155, looking for friends. Passing in public and getting second glances from men is my favorite pastime. Would like to meet other sisters, and share experiences.

Donna W. (TX-2476)

Dee Anne M. TX-2691

DEE ANNE (S TX) (#56)

WMM, middle-age, educated NE. Sales. Hetero, with bi interests. Sincere, selective, caring. Closet TV. Size 16 dieting to 14. Nice figure. Graduated to full dress. Interested in finetuning femininity with attractive LOCAL accomplished TV-TG, 40-55, married with accepting other. Weekday time availability and acceptable meeting place necessary. Interests are long-term, multi-dimensional, social, recreational - including golf, lunches, dressing with refined, educated person. Equal consideration to local unencumbered, accepting TS or GG.

Dee Anne (TX-2691)

ROY H. (N TX) (#56)

DWM non-crossdresser, 5'10", 42, world traveler. Enjoys movies, videos, travel, records, concerts, quiet talks. "Would like to meet pre or post-op TS for long lasting, honest, caring relationship. No games, no lies, just me. I have a nice beat and I'm easy to dance to.

Roy H., 5537 Harvest Hill #2123, Dallas, TX 75230 (TX-2370)

Donna M. NM-1734

DONNA E. MOBLEY (S TX) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess Board of Directors
Participant: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme
SWM, 40-something, 5'10", 150, widower. Fanatic skier/ski racer (10 hdcp). Hobbies include building scale model aircraft, photography, breaking fingernails. Widely traveled, college grad, former military (combat correspondent). Currently working as freelance audio/video/TV producer (no jokes please). Passable in public if it's dark and foggy. Will travel anywhere I can reach on a thermos of gas and a tankful of coffee. Promise a reply to all letters. Can't promise to be interesting.
Donna E. Mobley (TX-1734)

JHERI LEE SUMMERS (E TX) (#56)
Member: Tau Chi, TransPitt, Delta Omega, CGS, Flipside, IFGE Supporting.
6'2", 210, size 22, mid 40's, passable as a Giant Economy Size woman. Professional consultant. Want to make contacts with other sisters in cities all over. I travel extensively. Drive Houston/Dallas often. Entrusted in Texas sisters. I believe we can all be all we wish to be. I live in two places - 50% Dallas, 50% Houston. I want to do all I can to help our community. Am TG except for work.
Jheri Lee, 4835 N. O'Connor #134315, Irving, Texas 75062-2742. Or Call (214) 202-7873 after 8 p.m. or on weekends (TX-2525)

ROBYN MARIE BERRY (E TX) (#57)
MWM, hetero TV, 44, 5'8", 190. Enjoy camping, computers, and dressing every chance I can. I especially enjoy petticoats and square dance dresses.
R. Berry, P.O. Box 5813, Katy, TX 77491 (TX-2750)

PATTI (SE TX) (#57)
Very naturally nice-looking at age 60. I pass easily. A bit of a loner. My major interest at this point is to enjoy my femininity to the fullest. I have just reached the hormone stage. Have a supportive SO. Was president and CEO of a large corporation for many years.
Patti Lynch (TX-2768)

DONNA MILLER (N TX) (#57)
I would love to come out, but I need some help in doing so. Am interested in all TV goings-on. I want to be able to dress the way I want to, to be a total woman in every way. I am interested in actively supporting organizations that help our community.
Donna Miller (TX-2767)

JANEY LEE (SE TX) (#57)
Member: Humanity
SWM, 5'11", 140, blue eyes. Enjoy reading (amateur historian), outdoor activities, roses. Just coming out, and would love to make friends. Easy listener who loves to give advice. Typical Virgo. Excited about myself and new world of understanding and compassion. Please write, and let's get acquainted. Can and would love to entertain at my home. Especially would like to hear from TS's and GG's who like humor, good food, and music.
J. Berg, P.O. Box 128, Texas City, TX 77592

ADRIAN C. (W TX) (#57)
Handsome, mature, Bi-Male CD with many interests desires correspondence to develop friendship with very feminine, passable TV, pre-op TS, or TS with the object of eventual lasting, mutually fulfilling, loving relationship. Will answer all replies.
Adrian C., P.O. Box 80311, Seattle WA 98108

COLORADO (800- 816-)

Shirley K. CO-0494

SHIRLEY K. KNIGHT (CO) (#55)
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Texas T-Party, GGA Spring Fling
SWM TV, 47, 5'8", friendly, fun, and feminine. Enjoys traveling, church activities, and going out in public dressed.
Shirley K. Knight, P.O. Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002

VANESSA PHILIPS (SE CO) (#54)
MW TV, 43, 5'6", 140, hazel eyes. Enjoys fly fishing & tying flies, horseback riding. Educated, seeking correspondence and meetings with other CD/TV/TS's for advice, support, and just being friends (I feel that this is a two way street). Will answer all who write.
Vanessa Philips, P.O. Box 11277, Pueblo, CO 81001

Laura S. CO-1556

LAURA S. (CO) (#55)
Member: GIC - Denver, Delta Chapter
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
MWM TV with TG/TS tendencies, 5'10", 155, 42. Fun loving, caring person interested in bringing dignity & respect to our community. Enjoy being Laura, shopping, gardening, flying, cooking, rock n' roll music, being with friends. My wife has become fairly supportive since attending Texas T-Party. Been dressing since 5, in and out of closet several times. Finally out for good. I am developing the best friendships I have ever had with sisters I have met at Fan Fair and T-Party. Interested in working on issues relevant to our gender community.
Laura S. (CO-1556)

Shana CO-1088

SHANA (C CO) (#57)
Member: Tri-Ess, IFGE
Participant: 'Be All'
Divorced, 6', 135, hetero, 55. Interested in photography, sailing, writing, parapsychology. Been dressing since age 5. Have found acceptance as an entertainer in recent years. Enjoy doing fantasy makeup and costumes for friends. Slow corresponder, but will write to TV's and sympathetic ladies.
Shana, Box 3613, Littleton CO 80161 (CO-1088)

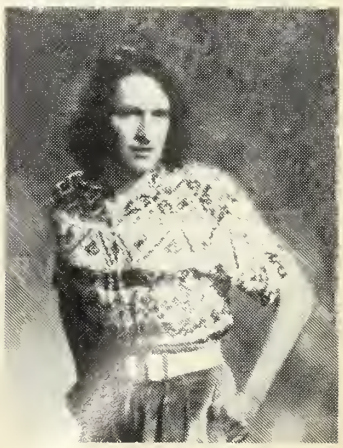
ROXANNE SALEM (C CO) (#56)
40+, male TV. Frequent and compulsive CD who enjoys the masquerade and eroticism of assuming my feminine role.
Roxanne S. (CO-2600)

WYOMING (820- 831-)

Michelle I. WY-2696

MICHELLE (E WY) (#57)
MWM, 33, 5'7", 135, dark brown hair. Shopping, movies, music, fashionable clothing, dancing. Very understanding and helpful wife. Have been dressing since age 10, but just now coming out of the closet. Enjoy going out for dinner, a movie, shopping dressed as Michelle. Would like to meet or correspond with other lovely sisters. Can't travel, but would love to entertain.
M.Ingle, P.O. Box 3285, Billette, WY 82717-3285 (WY-2696)

IDAHO (832- 838-)



Davi B. ID-2078

DAVI B. (ID) (#57)
Single TV with TS tendencies, 5'11", 140, 40's, brown eyes and hair. Loves going to the mall to shop for clothes. Going to a mall is the best part of my week. Enjoy water/snow skiing, roller skating, bowling, hook rugs. Would like to meet or hear from other sisters from all over that love doing the same things. Possible exchange of pictures and cassettes as well as letters.
Davi B. (ID-2078)

UTAH (840- 847-)

Mary Ann L. UT-2120

MARY ANN L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Alpha Provesta Tri-Ess
Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Coming Together'
32, 5'8", 135. Enjoy going shopping and out in public dressed. Becoming very passible. Enjoy meeting sisters around the country, as well as those passing through Salt Lake.
Mary Ann L. (UT-2120)

BRENDA L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Coming Together'
34, 5'6", 135, brown hair. Been crossdressing for 23 years. Just joined Tri-Ess and attempting to meet other CD's and learn to understand myself better.
Brenda L. (UT-2258)

KANDEE' STORRS (UT) (#57)
Member: IFGE, RCGSE
DWM, 37, 5'10", 180. Professional engineer, makeup artist (photo & special effects), P/T female impersonator. Interested in amateur radio, electronics, sci-fi movies, all forms of makeup, costuming, wigs, performing in shows, passing perfectly. Would love to meet GG, possibly artist or performer, with similar interests for mutual improvement of our illusions, and performance/illusion skills. Dream of owning own nightclub, classy shows, one day.
Kandee' S. (UT-2726)

Kandee S. UT-2726

ARIZONA (850- 864-)

Wendi P. AZ-1072

WENDI DANIELLE PIERCE (AZ) (#54)
IFGE Chairman of the Board of Directors
Member: A Rose
Participant: "Coming Together", "Be All", Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
Single post-op TS, 5'8", 150, 40. Interests: Travel, camping, writing, popular music, photography, computers, cooking, shopping, public speaking and exploring beautiful Arizona. Co-founder of 'A Rose', public speaker at university level on crossdressing and transgender issues, very active in TV/TS Community. I welcome correspondence from all sincere individuals although I cannot promise a quick response. My motto is "GO FOR IT", and I have!
Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

Jamie C. AZ-2335

JAMIE C. (AZ) (#55)
Bi TV, 5'11", 155, 38, brown eyes, black hair. Looking for other TV/TS's or understanding females who like CD's. Prefer age 21-45. I am an open minded person, very discrete. Expect the same. Send photo with letter.
Boxholder, P.O. Box 36563, Phoenix, AZ 85067 (AZ-2335)

Priscilla Ann S. AZ-2457

PRISCILLA ANN S. (SW AZ) (#55)
SWM bi(?) TV, 61, 6'2", 185, size 20 T, retired. Graying dedicated CD, loves all things feminine, dress to "age style", of approx. 50. Strictly a closet TV. Would like quiet social relationships with other mature TV/CD's (50-65+ age range). On quiet side, introvert, easy going, but warm and friendly. Would like to exchange correspondence/photos with TV sisters.
Priscilla S. (AZ-2457)

GEORGIA B. (AZ) (#56)
Post-op TS, 5'5", 40, auburn hair, hazel eyes, struggling to lose weight. Enjoy computers (including games), current events, and developing friendships, especially with other TS's. Would like to correspond with other TS's to develop new friendships, also understanding males who are cuddly, active chubbies. Have IBM-PC with modem, let's network. Would like to socialize. My place for coffee?
Georgia B. (AZ-1012)

CHERI K. (AZ) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
5'9", 180, 40, brown hair and eyes. Passable but need to improve. Enjoy women's fashions, camping, and "elevator music". In/out of closet, nearing divorce from unaccepting wife. Have "passed" in large shopping malls.
Cheri K. (AZ-2214)

Lee R. AZ-2514

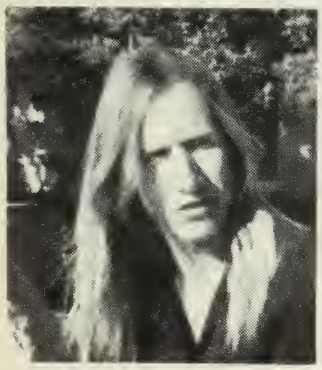
LEE REYNOLDS (AZ) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, TV, 55, 5'11", 170. "Recently married extremely supportive wife who was happy to find out the makeup stains in the sink were mine, no someone else's. Love the opportunity to retreat into my persona on weekends. Would like to find a CD in Northern Arizona for the purpose of dining, social events, etc. Would like to swap beauty secrets with sisters who write."
Lee Reynolds, P.O. Box 39354, Phoenix, AZ 85069

Cindee G. AZ-2644

CINDEE (S AZ) (#57)
MWM, 40, 5'9", 138, green eyes. Attractive as a lady according to understanding wife. Interested in landscaping, model airplane building, and especially dressing up, and trying new and different feminine attire and wigs. Looking for friends like myself to show off to. Still in closet, but would like to get out and about en femme. Just need more encouragement and support.
Cindee G. P.O. Box 3332, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 (AZ-2644)

Tommie F. AZ-1158

TOMMIE (E AZ) (#57)
Member: Butterfly, Tri-Ess (Delta and Alpha Zeta)
Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Be All'
Single TV, 50, 6', 170, size 14/16T, hetero. A real fanatic for heels, hose, panties, and bras. Enough undies and outerwear to start own boutique. Also like photography, historical and model railroading, and military history. Would like to meet, correspond and exchange photos. Will answer all.
Tommie F., P.O. Box 182, Safford AZ 85548-0182 (AZ-1158)



Carol D. AZ-2509

CAROL DEARBORN (S AZ) (#55)
Pre-op, never married, TS. Enjoys peace, revisionist/conspiratorial history, unorthodox scientific/medical theory, children, hiking, nude beaches. Have no regrets in following my chosen path - I am/become whatever I am/become.
Miss Dearborn, P.O. Box 1417, Tucson AZ 85702

JAMIE R. (AZ) (#55)
59, 6'2", 200, size 20-22, 42C. Professional pilot. Have dressed over 10 years. Dress constantly at home; 100% supportive wife. I confine my activities mostly to the home and tri-ess events. Would never wear my male clothes again if I could.
Jamie R. (AZ-1552)

VERONICA HALL (C AZ) (#56)
6', 160, 52, blue eyes, shoulder-length light brown hair. Hetero TV. I enjoy walking, swimming, ice-skating, and shopping. I am interested in developing friendships with ladies who have similar interests, and who live in, or near Tucson (home is Tucson, but currently spending most of each week in Prescott due to business. Will be like this until Dec. 15, 1990).
Ms. V. Hall (AZ-2648)

Carol M. AZ-2577

CAROL MARSHALL (S AZ) (#56)
Member: Alpha Zeta, Tri-Ess
45, 6'2", 210, college-educated. Interests include reading, cooking, homemaking skills, art, perfecting my feminine self. I am a hetero CD married to a very supportive woman. We would like to correspond with other couples who are supportive of one another to compare lifestyles and make friends. I am slowly coming out, and after meeting other CD/TG/TS's, have begun to relax and enjoy my femininity.
C.M., P.O. Box 4246, Tubac, AZ 85646 (AZ-2577)

NEW MEXICO (870- 884-)

PAULA PATTERSON (NM) (#55)
Member: Fiesta
5'8", 148, divorced, 2 children. Work in bank with computers, like science fiction. Interested in philosophy, religion. What is going out like where you live? I'll answer all letters.
Paula P. (NM-2448)

NEVADA (890- 898-)

PAM NORIS (S NV) (#56)
Member: IFGE
5'8", approx. 135, brown hair/eyes. Very friendly and outgoing. Interested in business, electronics, martial arts, women's clothes and fashions. I am very new at letting myself go, but this is what I want to be. Still, I could use all the help I can get, and would appreciate every bit of it.
Pam N. (NV-2681)

CALIFORNIA (900- 960-)

Renee C. CA-0644

REN'EE CHEVALIER (S CA) (#57)
IFGE Board of Directors, "Coming Together" Staff
Participant: P-Town WSG Outing, Wine Country Weekend, 'Coming Together'
Awards: The MSL Service Award
MWM, 5'9, 150, passable, and a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Interests: varied, including photography and carpentry. "I enjoy helping others and bringing newcomers out into the community."
Ren'ee Chevalier (CA-0644)

Wendy P. 0390

WENDY PARKER (S CA) (#56)
Member: IFGE Supporting, CHIC, ETVC, NWGA
Participant: Coming Together, Be All, Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
Awards: F/F 'Ms. Cinderella'
TG, 42, 5'9", 160, fun, passable, and enjoy going out dressed. Would like to socialize and correspond with other women, gentle souls, and free femme spirits.
Wendy P. (CA-0390)

Suzanne L. CA-2236

SUZANNE M. LYNCH (S CA) (#54)
Divorced SWM TV, 49, 6', 160. Interested in complete femininity and being able to pass in all situations. Enjoy computers, video, music, and fashion. Recently divorced; enjoy my opportunities to be Suzanne. Would like to correspond with attractive, passable TV or post-op TS for friendship, meetings, and photo exchange.
Suzanne M. Lynch (CA-2236)

Kelly CA-2221

KELLY (S CA) (#54)
MWM, 38, 5'10", 155. Attractive, passable TV, just started coming out and enjoying every minute that I get to spend as a woman. Hope to eventually live fulltime as a woman but family considerations have priority. Would love to meet GGs, TSs, and passable TVs in So. CA or Las Vegas. Photo, please.
Kelly (CA-2221)

Roxie H. CA-1636

ROXIE HOROWITZ (S CA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, PPOC

SWM TV, 40, 5'8", 160, non-smoker, non-drinker, full of non-sense. I am addicted to wearing high heels - I get high from wearing them. I love going out and being as beautiful as I can be. I also love making fun of people who take themselves too seriously.

I would love to get together with other TVs in CA - however, if I get out to your part of the country, you just may get a surprise visit.

Roxie Horowitz (CA-1636)

Ellen M. CA-1408

ELLEN MCKINNON (S CA) (#54)

Member: Neutral Corner

Married white male, 35, attractive and very passable. Interests: Music, sports, reading, photography, high fashion. "I have been written up in several major publications. Enjoy going out in public in all situations. Would love to meet and go out with all California sisters and to correspond with all who write. I will attempt to answer all correspondence promptly, from my sisters across the country as well."

Ellen McKinnon, Box 261326, San Diego, CA 92126

CHRISTY BARRON (S CA) (#56)

5'5", small build, 135 lbs., olive skin, dark hair & eyes, dress size 10/11. 39, educated professional. I enjoy running, bicycling, reading, vacationing (especially in Spanish-speaking countries), and being a woman. I love small talk and styles in clothing and grooming. "I have a very supportive and understanding wife. My children don't know , but I make a better mom than dad and everyone sees that. I'm family oriented and a very supportive, humanistic person."

Christy B. (CA-1839)

Cynthia H. CA-1453

CYNTHIA HOWARD (N CA) (#55)

Member: ETVC, IFGE, RGA, Tri-Ess, ETVC Outreach committee.

Founder, national coordinator of the Gender Alternatives League. Transgenderist, activist. Author, married, 40, S.O. is supportive. I am very interested in getting our community out of the psychiatric journals and off the can-be-discriminated-against list. I am interested in working with others with the same or similar goals in a cooperative effort to gain freedom of gender expression. If you are interested, contact me.

Cynthia Howard, Box 3392, Napa CA 94558 (CA-1453)

Donna F. CA-1664

DONNA LYNN FREEMAN (N CA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, ETVC

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Pajaro Dunes, 'Coming Together'

MWM hetero TV, 43, 5'9", 160, size 16, warm, caring, sensitive; usually passable and working to get better. Enjoy good food, good friends and good conversation; computers, shopping and all things feminine. Lifelong CD, public for 3 years, and have enjoyed every minute. Blessed with understanding and actively supportive wife. Am fascinated with how I have changed on this incredible journey.

Donna F. (CA-1664)

Elizabeth J. CA-1030

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S CA) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, 30's, 6', friendly but shy. Television engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips. Interests: Fanatic in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (use my own soprano female voice), computers, bicycles. "Would like to start a friendship with TV's, TV's and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

Angelique B. CA-0578

ANGELIQUE BRUMMELL (S CA) (#56)

TS-oriented male, femmiphile, feminist, believe in female rule. Health-oriented individual. 5'11", 160, 42, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoy paleontology (esp dinosaurs), inflatable boating, cuddling, animals, & helping people. I also love to bake bread. Very refined and correspondingly difficult to get along with. Agreeable, caring, and compassionate. Possibly excessively honest and still naive. "I'm very spiritual but am unable to identify myself fully with any religious organization yet experienced."

Angelique G. Brummell, 1001 Bailard Ave, Apt 1, Carpinteria, CA 93013 (CA-0578)

Susan D. CA-1822

SUSAN DAGGETT (S CA) (#56)

Member: Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County

6', curly brown hair, beautiful hazel eyes, 43 years young. "My life-long transsexual "battle" is finally turning open and peaceful. I enjoy personal computing, hiking, scuba diving, and being feminine!

Susan Daggett (CA-1822)

Nancy W. CA-1374

NANCY WILSON (S CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC

5'9", 150, dark hair & eyes. Creator of Crowning Glory Wigs for crossdressers in partnership with Mona (owner of shop).

Nancy Wilson, c/o Crowning Glory Wigs, P.O. Box 40366, San Diego, CA 92104

SHARYN STEVENS (N CA) (#54)

SWM TV, born 1960, late 20's, 6', 150 or so, brown hair/eyes. Discreet, intelligent, not bad looking. Enjoys Aikido, peace movement and other liberal/radical politics, computer programming, biology, philosophy and introspection, and learning to cross-dress passably. "I'm not looking for pen pals. Very interested in dating (no smokers please) any of the following: Women (TSs OK) who are favorably disposed to TVs. Female TVs who enjoy role switching. Other TVs with only one of us cross-dressed at a time.

Sharyn Stevens (CA-1472)

Janet E. CA-1102

JANET EDWARDS (S CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Hetero TV, 38, 5'9", 155, dark brown hair, musician (drummer in the 'Mr. Sister Band' which performed at 'Coming Together 1989' and was featured in 'Ladylike'). I am passable and go just about anywhere I want with no problem. Hobbies are shopping, and movies. Looking for CDs to go out with in the LA area.
B. Knipfer, 13624 Sherman Way #279, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Laura C. CA-0480

LAURA R. COVINGTON (N CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
DBM, hetero, 40, 5'8", 154, attractive, sincere, friendly. Enjoys fashion, photography, movies, video, music, reading, sports, sports cars, auto racing. I would like to correspond and meet other TVs or TSs and ladies that understand. I enjoy making new friends throughout the U.S. I love sharing with others the joys of trying to look as feminine as possible.
Laura Covington, Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94610

CINDY TAYLOR (N CA) (#56)
Bi WM, 29, blonde hair, blue eyes. Enjoy photography, music, video, astronomy. Am interested in corresponding with other Tv/TS's on who we are and why. I am interested in photo exchanges and the "sub-categories" of TV/TSism. Am very supportive and a good correspondent.
Cindy T. (CA-1727)

RACHEL D. (N CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC, RGA
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
5'10", 180, 51. Enjoy computers, programming, compuserve, bike riding, and, yes, cross-dressing. Separated after 22 years of marriage. Live at home dressed. 18 year old daughter knows and accepts.
Rachel (CA-1811)

Melissa F. CA-2099

MELISSA M. FOSTER (S CA) (#58)
Member: Feminine Image, PPOC, ETVC, NWGA, Alpha Zeta, A Rose, Neutral Corner, Tri-Ess
Participant: "Coming Together"
Cute TV, 40's, 5'10", 185. BS degree in engineering, USAF Reserve. I travel extensively around the world and enjoy meeting & writing other sisters. I enjoy going out and expressing my femme personality. Enjoy music, dancing, sports. Write for several gender publications. Enjoy travelling, having fun, and being involved in activities that will help my sisters and friends learn and grow.
Melissa Foster, P.O. Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714

ROXANNE R. (S CA) (#58)
DWM TV, 37, 6'1", 240. Lifetime TV, closeted. Enjoy shopping, dressing, music, frills, lace, golf, and pool. Would like to correspond and meet with other CDs, TSs, or men interested in such. "I am a very open and loving person. Will answer all who write. Live in the Inland Empire area."
Roxanne R. (CA-2174)

JOANNA ALICE GAYLORD (S CA) (#57)
6'2", blue eyes, long auburn hair, currently opulently obese, but losing weight. After losing both parents, gaining arthritis & asthma, at least I am blessed with an understanding supportive wonderful wife, and a new year of hope.
Joanna G. (CA-2066)

MARCIA M. (S CA) (#55)
Small build, nice figure, very feminine, complete wardrobe. Enjoy soft silky feminine attire, especially slips, panties, and nylons. Interested in discussing mutual feminine interests and aspirations. Would like to exchange experiences and fantasies via correspondence with imaginative TV's.
Marcia M. (CA-1454)

JILLIAN S. (N CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
DWM, 22, 6', 155, straight TV stationed in Long Beach, CA. Decent looking as a guy, but haven't gotten out yet to have feedback as a woman. Love sci-fi/fantasy, Rocky Horror, comic books, beaches, dancing, shopping (passionately), and having a good time. Want to start getting out, meeting other TV/TSs for friendship.
Jillian S. (CA-2040)

Terri C. CA-1293

TERRI CANNON (S CA) (#54)
MWM, 5'11", 40's, well educated, discreet and stable professional and business owner. Due to family situation I do not dress at home and Terri's activities are restricted - but I know how to be a good friend to all and can help newcomers. Also skilled photographer with access to a professional studio. Besides correspondence/photo exchange, interested in meetings, and possible special relationship with a Southern CA TV/TS. Strong interests in art, photography, cooking. Also enjoy golf and fishing. Appreciate a natural/cute look rather than flashy/exaggerated. All answered.
Terri C. (CA-1293)

Renee C. CA-1372

RENEE CHINQUAPIN (N CA) (#54)
Member: ETVC
Participant: "Coming Together"
Am currently training as a counselor and plan to work within the gender community. Am interested in networking with other counselors. Also interested in vacation exchange in So. England, France, Switzerland or Italy.
Renee Chinquapin, 200 Troll Ridge, Willits, CA 95490

Shirlee G. CA-2088

SHIRLEE G. (N CA) (#54)
Member: ETVC, RGA
SWM (widower), 50's, 5'10", 220, well educated. Closeted bi-TV, dressing since age [illegible]. Looking for friendly TVs, women and men willing to help me pass in public. Like to dress with style and class but need understanding friends. Hope for a little romance in the process.

Will try to answer all.
Shirlee G (CA-2088)

Rhonda S. CA-0956

RHONDA ANN SHAW (N CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC
MWM, 6', 160, 53, non-smoker. Passes well in daytime. Self-employed professional/scientist with post graduate degree. Due to job and home commitments I'm not always available. Interested in haute couture, furs, and fine food and wine. Love to dine dressed in Bay area's better restaurants. Am looking for friends to accompany me. Tall males who can escort a stylish woman are welcome.
Rhonda S. (CA-0956)

Betty B. CA-2307

BETTY BYRNE (N CA) (#55)
Member: ETVC
SWM (widower), 60, 5'10", 180. Enjoy appearing as well-dressed older lady. Like good food, good wine, conversations with friends, shopping and in general having fun times. Would love to meet other TV's and understanding gentlemen of this area for companionship, dating, etc.
Betty Byrne, P.O. Box 2565, Napa, CA 94558

JAN (CA) (#55)
Member: IFGE
WM, 45, 6', 180, blonde, blue eyes. Still in the closet - yearning to come out, but afraid - consider myself a "male lesbian".
Jan (CA-2210)

Roxanna P. CA-2350

ROXANNA P. (N CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC
Married TV, 6', medium build. Very supportive wife. Professional artist. Expression of the feminine self in image, feeling, and act is vital. I am an open and positive person and would like to share through correspondence and/or meetings. Into painting, photography, ephemera, posing, dancing, fun, and aspects of the Goddess.
Roxanna P., P.O. Box 8182, Berkeley, CA 94707 (CA-2350)

Alyson D. CA-1755

ALYSON DANIELS (S CA) (#56)
Member: PPOC
TV, 5'11". "I try to go out in public every couple weeks in the Pasadena area. I'm encouraged by moments when I seem to pass. I'm looking for friends (all types) who can understand or share my complexities. Be forewarned, I'm a lousy correspondent."
Alyson D. (CA-1755)

MARILYN CAMPBELL (S CA) (#54)
Young, energetic, creative TS. Sincere, sensitive, intelligent. Will correspond with anyone. Possible meeting in the LA area. "Life is short, so it should be as full as possible."
Marilyn Campbell (CA-2195)

MARILYN V. (C CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Married hetero WM, 5'11", 220, size 18, 43. Enjoy country music, flying, golf, professional musician.
Marilyn V., P.O. Box 3286, Bakersfield, CA 83385 (CA-2330)

MARY BERNICE F. (N CA) (#55)
Member: ETVC
Senior lady, new to San Francisco. Loves to be the lady she is. Loves people. Tell me about yourself; send a picture. Know that we can help each other to enjoy our heart-felt desire to be a successful TV.
Mary Bernice F. (CA-2405)

Kayla A. CA-2459

KAYLA ALLEN (N CA) (#55)
WM TV, 24, 6'3", 250. Computer systems analyst. Interested in meeting other TV/TS in Sacramento area. Travel to SF Bay area periodically. Heavily involved in Sci-Fi fandom, organizing conventions and clubs. Occasionally travel around the country to attend SF conventions. Would love to meet others active in both fandom and gender issues. I enjoy dressing, but also enjoy escorting others while not crossdressed, and have helped a sister TV make her first public appearances this way. Am also a member and participant on CompuServe's Human Sexuality Genderline Forum.
Kayla Allen, P.O. Box 95, Sutter, CA 95982-0095 (CA-2459)

MATT D. (S CA) (#55)
WM non-crossdresser, 26, 6'5", brown hair & eyes, business owner, single. Enjoys travel, theater, movies, weight lifting, aerobics, music. Looking for a TV or TS for correspondence, dating, and long term relationship. Will answer all.
Matt D., P.O. Box 3462, Fullerton, CA 92634-3462 (CA-2482)

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D. (N CA) (#56)
Member: HBIGDA
Participant: HBIGDA Conference
I am a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues. Being myself a M-F TS (operation in Jan. 1980) my interest in this area is both deep and personal. Although I am in private practice, I am closely associated with other Bay Area gender professionals and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy as well as recommendations for hormonal therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable.
Anne Vitale PhD, D St. Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901

MIKE (W CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC
SWM, 43, 5'11", brown hair/eyes. Interests include sports, TVism, music (50's-60's classics), being with good-looking woman (TV/TS). I'm would like to date TV/TS's. I understand, and will be supportive of your female needs and wants. I'm sincere, honest, and would like to be that special man in your womanly life. I'm interested in cross-dressing myself, and would like to meet someone to help me with dress and make-up. Must be willing to commit to long-term relationship.
Mike (CA-2030)

MELANIE (SW CA) (#56)
DWM, 5'4", 39, TS. Light brown hair, blue eyes, 140, looks 30ish. Interested in collecting dolls, sewing, cooking, motorcycle riding, raiding thrift stores, window shopping, antique clothes, literature. Been a TS since childhood, but out of the closet only recently - need lots of help with dressing and passing. I'm an RN with 16 years ICU-CCU and ER experience. I'm looking for friendship, not romance. Will answer all promptly.
D.B., P.O. Box 151074, LA, CA 90015 (CA-2566)

Lori C. CA-2586

LORI CALLWAY (SW CA) (#56)
Member: IFGE
Mid-thirties, 5'6", tall, thin. Interests include old movies, 60's rock (esp. Beatles), reading history, mysteries, photography sessions en femme. Love being feminine, and being around others who share similar interests. Interested in relationships with sincere people. Want to share experiences. Would love to meet GG's, TS's, TV's.
Lori Callway, P.O. Box 64312, LA, CA 90064 (CA-2586)

Mayumi O. CA-2706

MAYUMI OTA (S CA) (#56)
TV with Oriental background. 5'7", very passable. Would like to correspond and meet with other TV/TS's. Love to dress like a lady. Would like to learn a lot more about hormones.
M. Ota (CA-2706)

Cris C. CA-2713

KRIS C. (C CA) (#56)
MWM, TV, 5'8", 165, brown hair/eyes. Sensitive and caring. Enjoy music sports, fashions. Working on becoming passable, but still need more help, advice, and practice. Love dresses, skirts, shoes, makeup, and just about all feminine attire. Have come a long way since I first started crossdressing. Have accepted myself as a TV, and I love every minute of it. Would like to correspond with sincere TV's/TS's by writing/photos.
Kris C. (CA-2713)

BRIE'ANNE (SW CA) (#56)
5'9", 145, brown hair/eyes. Enjoy music, sports, feminine things. I'm very new at this. My wife knows, and helps. We need to hear from any couple that can help us understand and be aware of both our needs. I also can use help in becoming more feminine. Right now, I am just a child.
Brie'Anne (CA-2606)

CHRISTINA (SW CA) (#56)
SWM, 30's, hetero, spiritual, sensuous, with well-integrated femininity. Interests include environmental activism, medieval romantic literature, travel wines, music, and spiritualism. Getting better every day. Learning to pass better, and would appreciate all help. Love wedding gowns, and fancy, pretty dresses, maternity, and high heels. My psyche is healthy, but I have some fear and guilt about coming out. Will answer all with sincerity, compassion, intimacy, respect, and feeling.
C. Richardson, P.O. Box 485, Claremont, CA 91711 (CA-2617)

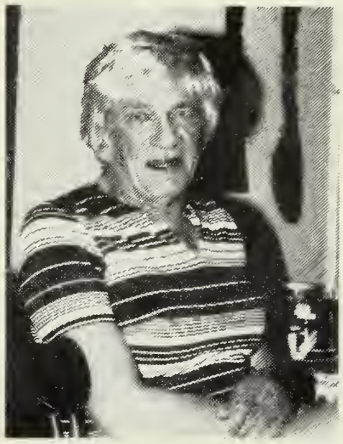
Julie L. CA-2632

JULIE LEWIS (SW CA) (#56)
CD with TS desires, 39, 6'. Interests include tennis, photography, computers, and of course, being free to be me. Been out of touch for a few years; now trying to pull myself up by my bra straps and get on with my life. Have experienced passing even in such places as a red-neck bar...but passing just isn't enough, is it?
Julie Lewis (CA-2632)

SHARON LOUISE (C CA) (#57)
Member: Renaissance
5'6", 165, white hair, hazel eyes, ruddy complexion. I have been this way for most of my life. I am not a school girl by any stretch of the imagination! Everyone guesses some 10 years less than my actual age - as most girls would say "this is my secret!". Am well-read, former semi-pro baseball player, excellent bowler, good roller-skater and dancer, and good conversationalist. Began wearing corsets at a very early age, but did not become a total crossdresser until in my thirties. Would love to correspond, and possibly meet others in my area. Am fairly well-educated and well-travelled. Anyone caring to write is more than welcome to do so.
Jas.C.Morgan (CA-1303)

Cindy H. CA-2117

CINDY H. (SW CA) (#57)
Member: PPOC, IFGE
SWM, 6'4", 235, Bi-TV. Interested in 12-step recovery, cooking, reading, surf fishing, photography, gender education and sexuality, camping, and art. I am a designer; mechanical engineering is my specialty. I am looking forward to corresponding with other sisters with similar interests. My life is enhanced with spirituality. I would love to meet and correspond with TS or TG who live and work as ladies here in southern CA. My entrepreneurial interests are channeled into a wonderful new game to be marketed soon. I'd love to share my newfound freedoms.
Cindy H. (CA-2117)



Leona M. CA-2505

LEONA MARTIN (C CA) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
65, 5'9", wife very supportive. I love who I am, what I am, as well as my gender sisters (TV, TS, etc.). I adore nice clothing, being buxom, and the soft, gentle aspects of femininity. I do turn exhibitionist for a camera. I would love photo sessions with others who are interested in self-improvement, sharing more than just fantasies. Will answer all.
Leona M. (CA-2505)

CHARLENE S. (SW CA) (#56)
Member: Neutral Corner
SWM, TG, 50, 6'1", 165. Outgoing, fun, loving, passable. Strong supporter of TV/TG/TS and gender issues. Love to socialize with sincere, funloving TV/TG/TS sisters, and open, unbiased GG's and couples. Been TV/TG whole life, public since 1960.
Charlene S. (CA-2652)

Arlene R. CA-2273

ARLENE FAY ROSEN (N CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC
5'6", 160, brown hair, blue eyes, Bi TG, size 12. Enjoy the full feminine look and feel of crossdressing. Seeking petite (under 5'7"), like-minded person to enjoy intimate, nurturing relationship. Serious replies enclose photo/phone.
Arthur Rosen (CA-2727)

Kristen D. CA-2531

KRISTEN [illegible]GON (S CA) (#55)
Single [illegible] M to F pre-op TS, 5'11", 160, 27, on hormones, passable. Interests include fashion, feelings, introspection and self-knowledge, the arts, and generally, having fun. I am looking to meet

with, and get support from like individuals in the So. California area. I respond to all correspondence promptly.

Kristen Dixon, P.O. Box 632852, San Diego CA 92163-2852 (CA-2531)

JULIE B. (SW CA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

Hetero CD, 5'8", 145, 34, married, two children. Still a closet case. Wife knows, but doesn't care for it. Interested in electronics, computers, family, long walks, california real estate. Glad to write anyone about anything. I have much to learn, but can also offer some unique views on many topics. I would like to find out what others do to get the courage to go to meetings and other places. I'm dying to get out, but don't know how.

Julie B., P.O. Box 8412, Northridge, CA 91327-8412 (CA-2639)

BETSY B. (N CA) (#57)

Member: STVC, NWGA, SGA, RGA, Tri-Ess

Participant: Dreams, Coming Together, Tahoe "Femme Flings"

DWM, older TV with long experience of crossdressing. Enjoy depicting a well-dressed, dignified older lady befitting my age. Enjoy parties and association with other CD's. Will answer correspondence.

Betsy B. (CA-1104)

Babs CA-2620

BABS (N CA) (#57)

Avid collector of TV, TS, CD books, periodicals, memorabilia, with a special interest in performers. There are over 100 books as well as too many magazines to count in my collection. It's still growing, too. I would like to correspond with other bibliophiles and collectors to compare acquisitions. If anyone is looking to trade or sell interesting materials, get in touch. I am seeking the following magazines: 'Tapestry', prior to #39, 'Ladylike' #1 and 2, 'Female Mimics International' #38 and 39, and selected issues of Lee G. Brewster's 'Drag' and Virginia Prince's 'Transvestia'.

Babs (CA-2620)

AMY (C CA) (#56)

TV/TS, 28 years old, 5'6", brown hair and green/brown eyes. Interests include lingerie, being a woman in all ways; also wargames and collecting Japanese animation. I am looking for discrete TV's, TS's and GG's for correspondence and friendship.

Amy (CA-2769)

Marlene L. CA-1036

MARLENE (S CA) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

Awards: Distinguished Service Award-Holiday en Femme, San Francisco, 1987.

Single, 5'11", 150, 57. Interested in tennis, chess, skiing, astronomy. I attend a dozen or so meetings each year. I work in the Tri-Ess National office once a week, and help organize new chapters.

Marlene, P.O. Box 4067, Visalia, CA 93278

HAWAII (& ISLANDS) (967- 969-)

Clara Ann B. HI-0955

CLARA ANN BULLARD (HI) (#55)

Member: Delta Chi chapter Tri-Ess

60, 6', 195. Have dressed since youth. Love being a woman and every part of feminine life. Have been out many times - window shopping, walking, sitting at bus stops, etc. Feel very comfortable with other CDs. "Let's face it - we all love being a woman and being called a lady."

Clara Ann Bullard (HI-0955)

PHYLIS D. (HI) (#55)

6', 66, blonde, green eyes. Enjoys music, reading, art - interior decoration, cooking. When dressed, I present a subdued dignified exterior. I think I look younger than my age. My attitudes toward life are not always dignified! I have a quick sense of humor, especially when directed at myself. I like people - including me!

Philip L. Davis, 444 Nahua, #1610, Honolulu, HI 96815

Tracy R. HI-2180

TRACY RYAN (HI) (#54)

Member: Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, President of same.

Hetero TV, 34, 5'8", 150. Outer dresser who enjoys being fully dressed and passing in public. A big shopper who spends most weekends at the malls en femme. Out of the closet since 1975, and well adjusted to this lifestyle, but lacking in TV companionship. Would like to correspond with TV's from all over. Would especially like to hear from those in Honolulu. I know you are out there.

T. Ryan, 777 Kapiolani Blvd, #3114, Honolulu, HI 96813 (HI-2180)

CHRIS LEE (HI) (#56)

5'10", 148. Enjoy dining out, jogging, swimming, golf. Part-time CD, never been out, would like to correspond/meet experienced, passable CD (heterosexual). Would like to go out in public, and perhaps attend TV/CD events.

Chris L. (HI-2593)

OREGON (970- 979-)

JEANETTE G. (OR) (#55)

Member: NWGA

Participant: DREAM

Blonde, 195, late 60's, 5'9", married, wife understands, 3 children (all know). Have been a cross-dresser since age 8. Appearing in public with the wife for the past 25 years. Retired professional. Especially enjoy wearing 4" heels (have over 150 pair in my wardrobe). Enjoy my collection of 30's & 40's big band era music. I will answer all cross-dresser letters.

Jeanette Gens, c/o NWGA, P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 92708 (OR-2426)

Karen K. OR-0322

KAREN K. (OR) (#56)

Member: Tri Ess (Board of Directors), NWGA

Participant: Be All, Holiday En Femme

SWM hetero TV, 47, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting and writing other sisters. I dress en femme about every day, and I go out dressed as often as possible. I'm comfortable dressed in public, and I pass well. I have gone to restaurants, the theater, etc. dressed, and I will continue in the future because I enjoy expressing my feminine personality. My interests are photography, camping & hiking, all sports, music, reading, theater, and dressing. I also travel a great deal; and so I am able to meet a lot of sisters around the country.

Karen K. (OR-0322)

Ellen S. OR-0382

ELLEN SUMMERS (OR) (#57)

IFGE Board of Directors, Vice-Chrprsn Board of Directors, Chrprsn Nominations Committee.

Member: NWGA, ETVC, Emerald City

Awards: "DREAM" Grand Dame '83

5'10", 185. I have been a part of our

community for 15 years. Enjoy travel, my big band era recording collection, being Ellen as much as possible, shopping for Ellen. My interest is in helping our community to accept themselves. I will answer all letters. I am married, with three grown children, my family knows of Ellen, and understands.

Ellen S., c/o NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208-4928 (OR-0382)

Stacy C. OR-1806

STACY CLEMENT (OR) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 190, green eyes, auburn hair (long enough to wear naturally). Very passable. Professional photographer. I especially love photo sessions with TV friends. Enjoy shopping, cooking, wine, food, and friends. "I've been around the TV scene for years and would like to exchange stories, tales, and the like with you!"

Ms. Stacy Clement, 3012 NE Hoyt, Box B, Portland, OR 97232

Jonele W. OR-2534

JONELE WONG (OR) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

5'5", 125, size 7, late 30's, Asian-American. Interests include playing guitar, skiing, kayaking, running. I love silk dresses and heels. Pass well and love to be out and about shopping, dining, taking in shows. I would like to contact more ladies, especially in the NW. Will exchange photos and true accounts of feminine adventures with all.

Jonele Wong, P.O. Box 24941, Eugene, OR 97402

RHONDA (C OR) (#56)

Member: NW Gender Alliance, Tri-Ess

38, 5'10", 155, TV, married, hetero, no children. Interests include: everything feminine, remodeling, camping, backpacking, auto restoration, trap shooting, bird hunting. Still in closet, although I did attend a NWGA function. I'm working on my image to go public soon. I have an understanding wife who helps occasionally. Fall and winter are my best times. I've known about myself since age four, but still have trouble coming to grips with my other self. ready to go forward! Employed Fire Service.

Rhonda, (OR-2708)

RACHEL (NW OR) (#56)

Single WMTV, 29, gorgeous and fun. Want to meet friends in the Portland area for understanding and good times.

Rachel, (OR-2654)

CAROL (NW OR) (#56)

55, 5'10", 180, brown hair/eyes, married. Enjoy reading sci-fi and historical novels, sailing, light airplanes. Although I've been a crossdresser many years, I am just now coming out of the closet. I need all the help I can find. Would like to contact and possibly meet others locally.

Carol (OR-2702)

WASHINGTON (980- 994-)

Sandy S. WA-1022

SANDY S. (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City

Participant: 90 In 90

5'11", 185, blue eyes, blond. Enjoy the total look, enjoy going out and meeting others. Love the entire look from lingerie to high heels and stockings. Want to learn all I can and meet others with same interest. Have enjoyed events in Portland and Seattle. Would especially like to meet others with accepting wives.

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

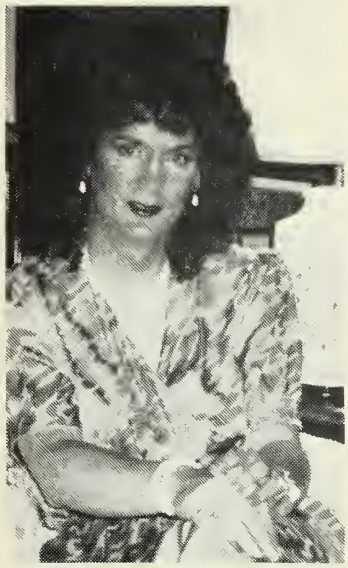
JUDY OSBORNE (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA, Tri-Ess

Participant: Fantasia Fair

5'11, 155. Enjoys sailing, reading, tennis, sports, cooking. "Love friends in the transgendered community, and in the other life. Wish the two could be brought together. Making some progress in this."

Judy Osborne, Box 19394, Seattle, WA 98109 (WA-1024)



Mary G. WA-1826

MARY M. GIBBONS (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

MWM TV, 48, 5'11". Enjoy music (attend opera and ballet and enjoy much wider variety), travel, movies, books. I have an accepting family which allows very satisfying activities. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with other interesting people. Not interested in macho pursuits at all. Interested in friends, not "relationship".

Ms Mary M. Gibbons, P.O. Box 1151, Mercer Island, WA 98040 (WA-1826)

Sally R. WA-1292

SALLY RAY (WA) (#54)

Member: NWGA, Emerald City

MWM, 34, 5'8", 165, blue eyes, professional. I am a small town girl that makes it to the "big city" (Portland or Seattle) 5 or 6 times a year for 3-day weekends. I pass well day or night and love to shop and party. I have experienced the thrill of many "firsts" in the last 2 years, and now want to concentrate on developing my feminine interests.

Sally Ray (WA-1292)

JEAN G. (WA) (#54)

WM, 5'11", 175. Enjoys feminine underwear all the time, dress up completely, but only in private on occasion. Non-supportive wife, although she knows. Will answer all letters.

Jean G. (WA-1331)

Helen B. WA-2688

HELEN (W WA) (#56)

I am a hetero TV who loves the feeling of being fully dressed and feminine. Because my family is not aware of my interests, personal meeting may be difficult, but I would love to correspond, trade photos, and hopefully meet.

Helen Bounds, Box 3772, Bellevue, WA 98009 (WA-2688)

MELISSA LEEANN PRATHER (WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City

Participant: '90 In '90

MWM TV, 5'10", 190, 56 with semi supportive wife. Enjoys sewing and design, art, calligraphy, cooking, model roading, stamp collecting, writing. Would enjoy hearing from others.

Melissa LeeAnn Prather, 7358-28 Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126

CHERYL (WA) (#55)

Married, 44, 5'2", blonde. Enjoy swing music, golf, video, 40's fashions, bowling, lingerie, TV literature. AA member, 15 years sober. Love to write letters and share experiences. Will answer all correspondence.

Cheryl Gregory, 177 Telegraph Road #440, Bellingham, WA 98226

Amy Jo C. WA-1181

AMY JO (W WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City-Seattle

5'11", black hair, hazel eyes. Enjoy lingerie, sexy nylons, high heels, anything feminine. Would like to meet other TV/TS in the same area.

A.J. Carmody (WA-1181)

STEPHANIE NELSON (WA) (#55)

Hetero CD, 6'2", 160, 40, brown hair, green eyes, professional. Interests: Skiing, tennis, camping. Would like to develop honest, sharing friendship, nonsexual. I would also like to develop my femininity to pass in public. I would particularly like to hear from other CD's, TV's, or TS's in Spokane area.

Stephanie Nelson, P.O. Box 15183, Spokane, WA 99215 (WA-2318)

JENNIFER MARTIAN (SW WA) (#56)

Member: IFGE Supporting Mbr

Single M-F pre-op TS, 29. Enjoy model railroading, socializing with other TS's. Enjoy my job as a building maintenance engineer. On hormones one year. Would like to visit and talk with other TS's in Washington. Because I word 6-7 days a week it is difficult for me to travel, but I do get to Seattle four times a year to see my physician.

Jennifer Martian, 1327 Delaware Ave SE, Apt 1, Richland, WA 99352 (WA-1710)

MICHELLE LYNN (WA) (#55)

Married TV, 37, pleasant personality. Enjoys people. Still in closet, but would like to meet sisters in NW WA area. Love all heels and feminine finery. Enjoy boating, camping, cooking, & having fun. Will answer all letters and exchange photos. Very discrete. Write... even to say "Hi!"

SAMANTHA LOVELL (WA) (#54)

5'10", 150, 35, blond, blue eyes, size 14. Very active athletically (bicycling, running, mtn climbing). Also enjoy classical music and reading (best sellers, sci-fi, TV fiction). Been dressing in private for 20+ years. Just found out that there are others. Want marriage but shy (my feminine side) and afraid to relate my TV habits. Please write.

Samantha Lovell, P.O. Box 5243, Kent, WA 98064-5243 (WA-2302)

WENDY KATHERINE (W WA) (#56)

MWM, hetero TV, 42, 5'9", 180, blue eyes, auburn hair. Not bad looking, but would like to improve my presentation. Interests include feminine things, skiing, long walks in the moonlight, 60's music. Trying to come out more; non-supportive wife hinders that. Looking for someone special to share ideas and experiences with. Would like to go out, but need to gain more confidence and experience in the feminine role. Will answer all sincere letters

W.K. Plemmons, P.O. Box 101, Moclips, Wa 98562-0101 (WA-2662)

DENISE STRONG (WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City, Ingersoll Gender Center, IFGE Publication Committee.

MWM, TV/TG, 39, 5'11", 170, hetero, professional. Enjoy good conversations, meeting others, intellectual pursuits, travel, movies, music, plays, outdoors, humor, spontaneity, fine wine, and establishing meaningful nonsexual friendships. Willing to correspond with, and meet other interesting people who enjoy going out publicly. Well-read on TV/TG/TSism. Interested in additional research and writing articles on same. Wife supportive, however, discretion is a must. Will answer all.

Denise Strong (WA-2748)

ALASKA (995- 999-)

Kyndel M./ AK-2087

KYNDEL FAY MERCEDES (AK) (#54)

Member: Berdache Society (Chrprsn & IFGE Rep)

Warm, expressive transgendered person enjoying the process of being and becoming Kyndel Fay. Married with a life partner who is most supportive. Interests: Psychology, anthropology, transcendental metaphysics, honest sharing friendship, developing my femininity, and hearing from you. Not much is clear, but this much is certain, I'm glad I'm out. Will answer all who write.

Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 113162, Anchorage, AK 99511

DONNA S. (AK) (#55)

Member: Berdache Society

Married life-long TV, 5'9", 33, 145. Life-long alaskan, enjoy being dressed en femme in public, short skirts, and meeting people, and hearing from people.

Donna S. (AK-2247)

SUSANNE MARIE B. (AK) (#56)

MWM, 33, 6'3", 175, brown hair, blue eyes. Interested in corresponding with other CD's and TV's and attending my first public function as "Susanne". Would welcome any letters and photos and will return same. Would like to communicate with those who share my love for women's clothing, and playing the part as well.

Susanne B. (AK-2422)

CANADA

Micheline J. CAN-0560

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) (#54)

Member: FACT-Ottawa

Gentle, sensitive, affection-starved woman (white pre-op M-F TS, born 1930's, hormones since 1979) seeking romantic relationship with caring man, correspondence or in person, preferably in eastern Canada or northeastern U.S. I would be attracted to non-smoking, intellectually inclined, articulate special person interested in the arts, travel, romance, dancing, hugging, dinners by candle-light. Write with photo, phone number to:

Micheline Johnson, P.O. Box 9155, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3T9

CAROLYN ALEXANDER (ON CAN) (#57)

I'm a 40-something attractive and sophisticated bi WMM CD, well and truly educated with a sensuous, caring attitude. I pass easily and love to be totally feminine. Looking for intimate friendship with readers having similar make-up who wish to meet or correspond.

Carolyn Alexander, Box 7115, Vanier PO, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E3 (CAN-1087)

LINDA JENSEN (ON CAN) (#56)

Tall, slim, blue eyed, dark hair. "Love to shop, cress, go out. Also into fitness, home video, and stimulating conversation and travel. I've met many fine persons involved in the cross-dresser's world. I would like to meet and share experiences with more."

Linda Jensen, Box 15855, Stn. F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C-3S7 (CAN-0442)

JOAN BRIDGEMAN (ON CAN) (#55)

Member: Tiffany, Transition Support, CGS, ETVC, Boulton & Park.

Participant: IFGE Convention '88, '89; Texas Tea Party '89, Be-All '88, 89.

Middle age M-F TS. "I am very poor at answering letters because I am too busy and enjoy travelling. However, please feel free to call me if you are in Toronto."

Joan Bridgeman (CAN-0565)

YVETTE DUCHARME (QUE CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, Tiffany, IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair 1989

DWM, hetero, 49, 5'11". Live alone. Interests: All about makeup ad femme things, travel (especially security aspects), reading, listening to music, shooting, and race cars. "I enjoy corresponding very much. My femme personality is classical type. Relaxed and open to discussion. Would like to correspond and form new friendships."

Yvette D. (CAN-1632)

Mary Lou H. CAN-0440

MARY LOU H. (AL CAN) (#54)

Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, NWGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, Tri Ess Holiday, Shangri La, 'Be All'

SWM hetero TV, retired, 5'8", size 12, musician, loves concerts, drama, nature, museums, traveling. Stylish dresser with fine wardrobe. Will meet hetero TVs and understanding girls/ladies. I love correspondence and exchange of pictures. Will answer all.

Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

KAREN HOPE (ON CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-ess.

Participant: Local Tri-Ess functions.

41, married, 2 children, professional. Finally emerging after struggle since age 4. My wife and my local Tri-Ess group are supportive. I'm here!

Karen Hope, Box 8282, Alta Vista Station, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H7

Julie F. CAN-1665

JULIE FASHIONS (BC-CAN) (#55)

SWM, 5'9", 164, 42, blue eyes, trim figure. Works publicly as male, lives privately as female. Loves shopping and all things feminine. Will correspond with others who are TV/TS.

Julie Fashions (CAN-1665)

Karen Anne B. CAN-1970

KAREN-ANNE BROWN (ON CAN) (#56)

Hi! I'm a 5'4" TV doll, petite size 12, 39-31-38. I pass easily if I do not talk. I like soft romantic music, white wine, and willing to consider any fantasy. I also write TV fiction, and have mags and books to swap. I enjoy computers and intelligent conversation. I am in the closet, but willing to travel W QUE, Northern NY, and E ONT, for the right person. Only well written letters will be responded to.

Karen-Anne Brown, P.O. Box 1175, Cornwall, ON K6H 5V2 CANADA (CAN-1970)

SARAH GEDDIS (AL CAN) (#54)

Participant: Be All Weekend '89

Member: Phi Sigma, Calgary, Alberta (charter)

Hetero TV, 36, married to an understanding and terrific and understanding lady. Interests: photography, camping, computers, people. Member Tri-Ess. Several of us have formed a club for hetero CDs in Calgary, Alberta. Anyone interested contact:

Phi Sigma, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

LOUISE M. (BC CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Holiday En Femme (Chicago), Tiffany P-Town Outing, Be-All (Chicago)

SWM, TV, 135, well-educated, attractive and neat, very fit 60-ish. Enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, cycling, golf, music (symphonic to "soul"), theater, good books, everything feminine, and making the most of each passing day. "I enjoy corresponding with my sisters and am a conscientious correspondent. I dress very frequently at home and love going out as my other self. I feel relaxed and confident as a woman."

Louise M. (CAN-1787)

REBECCA W. (ON CAN) (#54)

Member: Monarch Social Club, Transition Support

Single, mid 30's, 6'2", 155, reddish brown hair. I would like to communicate with others who are either TV-TS or sincerely interested for social and supportive ideas. I have been living a long time alone as a TV and know the isolation one goes through. I am very sincere and discreet. I have a small apartment, and can travel or entertain on a small basis. Please write soon.

R. Wenman, 124 Tupper Cr, Apt #203, Kitchener, ON N2B 2X9 CANADA

Christine B. CAN-2474

CHRISTINE B. (BC CAN) (#56)

Married, 40, 6', 165, TS oriented with supportive wife. "My primary interests lie in raising my children and being in a fulfilling relationship with my wife, and exploring the unlimited potential of my career. Having read Kyndel Kellis' article in Issue 55, I have embraced the concept of berdache - each day is different. I have only been out dressed twice. I need a clear understanding of the legal ramifications of being made before pushing my luck. I would appreciate feed back."

Christine B. (CAN-2474)

ALLISON JENNIFER BRENT (AL CAN) (#56)

Member: Phi Sigma

MWM, hetero CD, 5'9", 172, 6'4", brown hair, brown eyes. I am married to a wonderful gal who is aware of my CD interests, but prefers to remain uninvolved. Interests include music of the big band era, racquet sports, hiking and canoeing. I enjoy dressing and making 'Allison' just as feminine as she can be.

Allison B. (CAN-1656)

Helga D. CAN-2759

HELGA DAHLKE (ONT CAN) (#58)

5'8", 150, 64, hetero TV, married to a slightly supportive wife. Feminine, but shy, not out of the closet yet, just getting started again. I like being dressed in nylon, satin, lacy feminine attire. Interests include camping (Owen Sound area), ballroom, square, and round dancing. Like to spend winters in Florida. Wish to meet others from my general area who have their wives' support, for help and friendship.

Helga D. (CAN-2759)

BEVERLEY V. (ON CAN) (#55)

MWM hetero TV, 45, 5'10", 185, ash blonde, blue eyed professional. "Enjoy boating, skiing, art, theater, dining. Enjoy feminine dressing - cautious, conservative - come out timidly and quite passable. Look forward to meeting and writing other sincere, discrete, empathetic TV's, TS's, & supportive females to help me become more at ease."

Beverley V. (CAN-2449)

CYNTHIA ANNE WILLIAMS (ONT CAN) (#56)

5'11", 146, 29. SW hetero TV. Enjoys movies, reading, collecting rare books, manuscripts, and autographs. I have been crossdressing for 20 years and would like to hear from others who enjoy my TV interests. I am not out of the closet, and, unfortunately, have not yet developed the courage to go on outings.

Cynthia W., P.O. Box 545, Postal Station D, Etobicoke, ONT. M9A 1BO (CAN-2559)

DEBORAH (TOR CAN) (#56)

Member: Tiffany

MWM, 42, lifelong CD. Quiet, caring; supportive wife and family. Cosmopolitan interests: music, art, poetry, cooking, gardening, sports, fashion, philosophy, science, etc. Interested in meeting others, especially couples, for friendship and mutual support.

Deborah (CAN-2572)

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MEXICO

Larua M. MEX 2670

LAURA MORENO (MEX) (#56)

Events attended: None - This is Mexico...you know, "machismo"!

MWM, 39, 5'10", 140, brown hair/eyes. Life-long crossdresser, passable at times, guilt-free. Just coming out of the closet. I like to dress like a lady. Wish to meet new friends (sincere, secure TV/TS couples) for mutual support. Would like to join or form a TV/TS group in Mexico City. I like to dance, cook, listen to music, reading about the psychological aspects of TV/TSism.

Laura M. (MEX-2670)

ENGLAND

CELIA SCOTT-SHEPHERD (ENG) (#57)

Member: Beaumont Society, Gender Dysphoria Trust (UK)

Widower, 5'9", 145. Occasional TV from age 4 to partner's death. Now getting more deeply involved. Interested especially in language and music. Would like to receive audio tapes in exchange for my "first and second voices".

Celia S., P.O. Box 1351, London N16 7XX, England (ENG-1904)

EUROPE

HELEN S. (FRANCE) (#55)

Member: Trans-CCL (Paris)

TV, 57, 5'11", blonde. Enjoy everything feminine. Interests: classical music, arts, reading, biking. Especially enjoy writing or meeting with sisters and understanding ladies. Wish contact with other European members.

Helen S. (FRA-2178)

Helen S. FRA-2178

Susan S. GER-2235

SUSAN JEAN SMITH (W. GERMANY) (#55)

Attractive TS w/great legs, 5'9", well-built and educated, seeking husband, friends, and job. Would like to meet men who would consider a serious and permanent relationship with me. Interests include SRS, intelligent people, and creative writing.

Susan Jean Smith (GER-2235)

JENNY SAND (NORWAY) (#56)

Member: FPE-Northern Europe

Hetero TV, 36, 5'8", 120. Enjoys low-budget world travel, meeting warm, open-minded, humoristic people. Interests range from literature, music, art and film, to the more practical, such as carpentry and mechanics. Can fix a broken garter as well as my own old car. Love to feel feminine, and strive for perfection. Take every chance to go out dressed with friends and other TV's. Do not always pass, but refuse to let that stop me. Interested in hearing from anyone, especially those who would be interested in being my local guides when travelling the US.

Jenny S. (NOR-2584)

Jenny S. NOR-2584

AUSTRALIA

MARINA LANG (AUS) (#56)

Member: Seahorse Club of Victoria

Participant: Cup Eve Ball, Arts Ball

TS, 194 cm, blonde. Enjoys classical music, oil painting, theater, concerts, eating out in restaurants, fashion, and dress design. Would like to hear from other very tall IFGE members.

Marina Lang, G.P.O. Box 1177K, Melbourne, 3001 Australia (AUS-0693)

JOANNE WILSON (AUS) (#56)

Member: Seahorse Australia

44, 5'10", 154. I'm a professional writer and I also write TV stories for many magazines.

Joanne Wilson, 3 Dundas Place, Albert Park, 3206 Australia (AUS-2516)

Jo Ann W. Aus-2516

HONG KONG

ROSEMARY MARYON LANGTON (HONG KONG) (#56)

Member: Beaumont Society

MWM lifelong TV, 58. Enjoys dress making & alterations, travel, corresponding with and meeting TV's in Hong Kong and elsewhere. I am an enthusiastic & committed TV, & can pass easily. My wife and grown up children know and accept Rosemary. I love having my own hair set and going to beauty salons for facials. I enjoy role playing and am fascinated by Victorian and Edwardian fashions, including tight lacing. I have an extensive wardrobe both of current fashions and maid, little girl, maternity, and Japanese outfits. I like to correspond with and possibly meet TV's everywhere as I travel extensively.

Rosemary Langton, G.P.O. Box 9171, Hong Kong (HK-1792)

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1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communication for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communication.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the crossdressing and transsexual phenomena, and of the people who are members of that community.

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2.) Your personal listing will be in 'the Tapestry' and will continue to be published for the duration of your subscription. You may withdraw or change your listing at any time.
3.) No sexually oriented wording or photos will be accepted.
4.) Unless otherwise stated, legal names and addresses will not be placed in the Tapestry. If you do not want your address published but want your mail forwarded, write **"C/O TAPESTRY"** on the bottom line.

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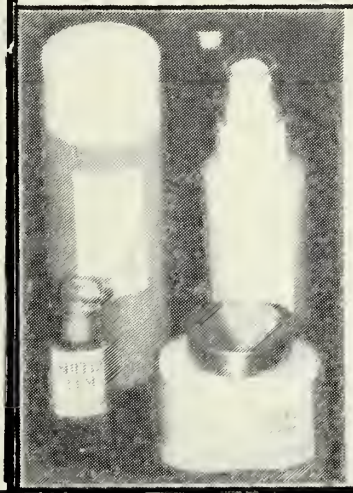

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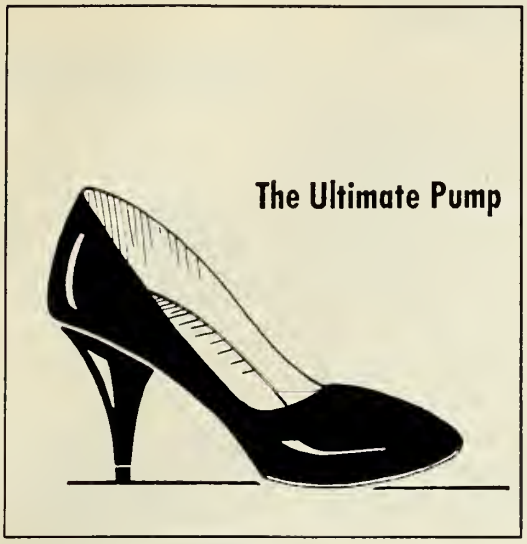

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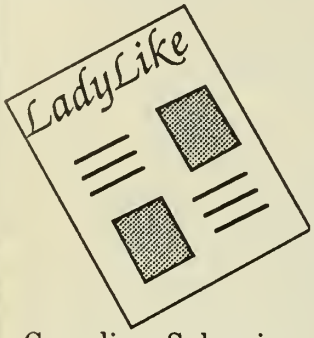

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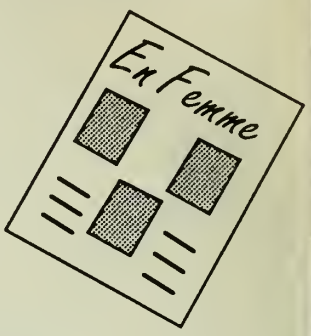

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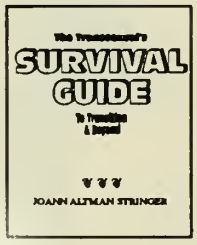

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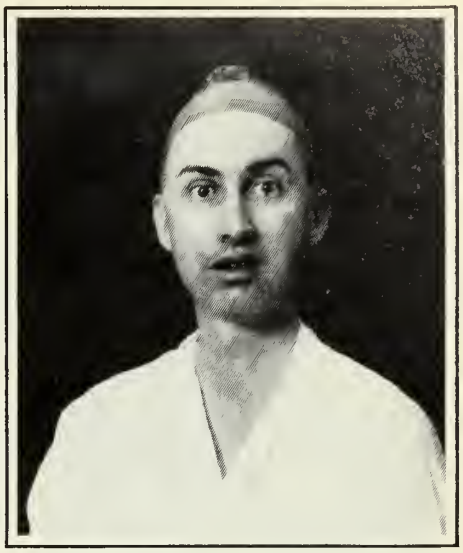

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